



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
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Richard Jolevette
Custodian

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
Accountant
finance@stmonicakc.org

Mass Schedule:
9:00 a.m. Sunday Service
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

Main Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri
(816) 471-3696
www.stmonicakc.org

From our Pastor

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

The disciples were not where they wanted to be. They were in a small boat, several miles from shore, in the darkness, with strong winds and waves pushing against them. They were tired, frightened, and probably wondering why Jesus had sent them across the sea without him.

Then, in the middle of the storm, Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

The disciples did not immediately recognize him. Instead, they thought he was a ghost and cried out in fear. That reaction may seem humorous to us, but perhaps we should not judge them too quickly. When we are tired and frightened, our imagination can also become very creative. A strange sound in the house at midnight can suddenly become a burglar, a ghost, or at least a very determined raccoon!

Jesus immediately reassured them: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

This is the central message of this weekend's Gospel: **When the winds of life are against us, we must keep our eyes on Jesus.**

Peter understood this, at least for a moment. He said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus answered with one simple word: "Come."



"Lord Save Me" by Eva Koleva Timothy

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Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. As long as his attention was fixed on the Lord, he was able to do what seemed impossible. But then Peter noticed the strength of the wind. He looked at the waves, became frightened, and began to sink.

The wind had been there before Peter stepped out of the boat. The waves were not new. What changed was the direction of Peter’s attention. He stopped looking at Jesus and began concentrating on the storm.

We often do the same thing. We begin with faith, hope, and confidence, but then we start looking at everything that could go wrong. We focus on the medical diagnosis, the unpaid bill, the family disagreement, the uncertain future, or the mistake we made in the past. Before long, we feel ourselves sinking beneath worry and fear.

Faith does not mean pretending that the storm is not real. The winds of life are real. The are real. Peter’s fear was understandable. But faith means believing that Jesus is greater than the storm and that he is present with us in the middle of it.

When Peter began to sink, he did not offer a long, beautifully prepared prayer. He simply cried, “Lord, save me!” It may be one of the shortest prayers in the Bible, but it was enough. Immediately, Jesus reached out and caught him.

Notice that Jesus did not stand at a distance and give Peter instructions on how to swim. He did not say, “Peter, you got yourself into this; now get yourself out.” He stretched out his hand and lifted him up.

That is good news for all of us. Even when our faith becomes weak, Jesus does not abandon us. Even when we doubt, sink, or panic, his hand remains near.

The Christian life is not about never feeling afraid. It is about knowing where to turn when fear comes. When the winds rise, when the waves grow strong, and when we feel ourselves sinking, we can pray with Peter: “Lord, save me!”

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Psalm 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; John 12:24-26

Tuesday: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Psalm 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 18:15-20

Thursday: Ezekiel 12:1-12; Psalm 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62; Matthew 18:21-19:1

Friday: Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63 or Ezekiel 16:59-63; Psalm 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28

Sunday: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Lectors: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut, Ramonda Doakes

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$5,967.60
Fundraising Campaign:	\$1,876.00
Food Pantry:	\$25.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,598.40
Funeral:	\$300.00
Total	\$11,767.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$121,303

St. Monica Day Celebration



Mark your calendars for St. Monica Day Weekend, August 29-30! The weekend will kick off with a Health and Wellness Event on Saturday,

August 29, from 10 am to 12 pm and will commence with a Spiritual Wellness celebration at the 9 am Mass on August 30th. Please invite your friends and family, and remember to wear your African attire to Sunday Mass.

Fundraising Campaign



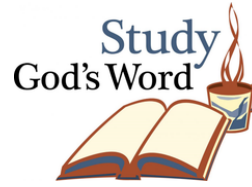
Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

Capturing The Black Catholic Experience



"The St. Monica Museum of Black Catholic Culture & History will be coordinating video tapings to capture and permanently preserve meaningful stories, events, information, and memories that reflect the Black Catholic experience. Initially, the focus for the oral history project will be for the time period prior to 1960. If you or someone you know has memories or information about churches, schools, priests, nuns, meaningful experiences, etc. that occurred prior to the year 1960, we would like to hear from you. Ultimately, the Museum will seek information that captures the Black Catholic experience, not just in Kansas City, but nationwide and worldwide. Please contact Alvin Brooks, Jackie Dinvaut or Lawrence Blankinship for more information."

Wednesday Prayer Service



Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for our uplifting prayer service. We start with an inspiring song, followed by the rosary, and engaging readings.

Together, we will discuss the upcoming Sunday gospel, share our prayer intentions, and conclude with a powerful closing prayer. Come and strengthen your faith with our community!

Women's Bible Study



Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third

Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Monday at 4:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunt.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner, Bernadette Cook

Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member have become homebound or admitted to the hospital. Please call the parish office at (816) 471-3696 or email frleonard@stmonicakc.org.

Office of Child & Youth Protection- Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and

2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.213.6024 or ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.714.2357 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -

Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Leadership Corner

Stewardship Committee

Lawrence Blankinship

M. Jenise Comer

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Carolyn Greene

Shirley Thaw

Jackie Dinvaut

Chair

Recorder

Kenneth Bacchus

David Barnes

Alvin Brooks

Angela Curry

The Prayer of St. Monica

Cast yourself with confidence into the arms of God and be very sure of this, if God wants anything of you, He will fit you for your work and give you the strength to do it.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00 AM Mass

10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal

11:00 AM Ladies of St. Peter Claver (STM)

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

4:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00 AM Mass

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

10:00 AM Elaine Lomax Funeral

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)