



Dear Parish Family,

Grace and peace to you in Christ.

It is with a prayerful and tender heart that I write to share an important and emotional update regarding our parish community. After much reflection, consultation, and discernment, we will be listing the former St. Monica Church and the adjacent storage building for sale at current market value.

As someone who had the great joy and privilege of serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Monica from 2016 to 2018, this is not simply a property decision—it is deeply personal. I still carry the faces, the stories, the prayers, and the love of that community in my heart. I know many of you do, too. That sacred space holds memories of baptisms and funerals, joyful weddings and quiet moments of prayer. It was a home. Letting go of a building like that is not easy, nor should it be.

But we do so now with reverence and hope—trusting that God, who has always been faithful, is leading us toward a more united and vibrant future. This decision was not made lightly, and it is not about erasing the past, but about honoring it by building on the foundation it laid.

I want to reassure you that while the church and storage building will be sold, the former rectory at St. Monica will remain under parish ownership. It is currently home to the Missionary Servants of the Word, a community of women who are joyfully and courageously proclaiming the Gospel in our midst. Their presence is a tremendous blessing to our parish, and we are committed to supporting their continued mission among us.

Selling a church building is never just about property. It's about memory, emotion, and identity. I know this may be difficult to hear, and I understand if it stirs sadness or even frustration. Please know this comes from a place of deep care for the whole parish—an effort to ensure that we remain strong, united, and mission-focused for the generations to come.

I promise to keep you updated on the progress of this sale and, more importantly, I promise to continue walking with you—grieving what needs to be grieved, and also trusting that the Holy Spirit is doing something new in us, even now.

Let us honor St. Monica not only with our memories but by the lives we live today—lives rooted in prayer, unity, and love for one another.

With love and deep gratitude,

Fr. Stephen Smith
Pastor