



What does the future of St. Monica look like?

The future of St. Monica is bright. Our community continues to thrive: we have strong Mass attendance, growing ministries and a vibrant parish school. Our priority in this campaign is not to significantly increase school enrollment, but to ensure that our students have a safe, secure, comfortable and innovative learning environment.

1. Why do we need this campaign?

Our school building has not received significant updates in decades. Unfortunately, the infrastructure continues to worsen and the cost to repair it will only get more expensive over time. Thus, St. Monica leadership determined it is in the best interest of our parish community to address renovations now. We will demonstrate the stewardship expected of us as a Catholic community and keep in mind that everything we have is a gift from God.

2. How does this campaign benefit the entire St. Monica community?

St. Monica has long prided itself on having a strong community, full of parishioners of all ages and backgrounds. Our parish school is our largest ministry and contributes to our diverse community. By investing in our school now, we ensure parents will continue to trust us to educate young people in the Catholic faith.

The project will give us room; provide us with breathing space. We often struggle to accommodate meeting requests for various parish ministries. Moving the preschool to McManus Hall, allows us to convert the existing preschool classrooms and offices in the Family Center to standard meeting rooms for use throughout the day and evening. We gain four rooms to accommodate large groups of people and two smaller rooms suitable for more intimate groups.

3. Why are we starting this campaign when some parishioners are still fulfilling pledges to the capital campaign for the Diocese?

We are aware some families are still fulfilling their commitment to the Diocese of Dallas for the *Our Faith, Our Future* campaign. We are grateful to all of our parishioners who generously gave to the effort. In addition to supporting priestly formation, the restoration of the cathedral and Catholic Charities, more than \$390,000 from the campaign will be coming back to our parish to support our school renovation.

Families who wish to make a gift to *We Are St. Monica – A Legacy of Faith* campaign but are currently fulfilling other commitments can delay their pledge payments or spread their gift over five years.

4. What is the timeline? How soon can we start?

Prior to conducting the planning study, we met with architects, construction companies and project managers to determine the cost of the proposed projects and get preliminary plans and renderings. Working with Pritchard Associates, Adolfsen & Peterson Construction and GFF Architects, we have finalized our plans, which are detailed in the case statement. The timing of construction and renovation will be dependent on funds raised and cash on hand.

5. What will the impact be on current students?

We will complete construction over the summer, so the projects will not impact our school calendar. The contractors selected for this project are familiar and comfortable working with schools and in a limited timeframe.

6. How do the plans for the new classrooms compare to existing classrooms for science, art and music?

The addition will result in five new classrooms. The new science classrooms will be larger than the current rooms and designed with today's middle school science education in mind, while reusing existing equipment to minimize costs.

The new art rooms will be comparable in size to the current rooms. The kiln and other art equipment will move to the new classrooms. We will consult with our art teachers to ensure the classrooms meet the needs of their students and curriculum.

We will move the music classroom to the large classroom at the front of the school. Since it is not located adjacent to any other classrooms, it will not require significant soundproofing. Currently, the room is home to a second-grade class. The second-grade class will move to the new classroom, which is next to and the same size as the other second-grade classrooms in the B wing.

Many of the classrooms in McManus Hall are named in honor of our parishioners. The new classrooms will carry the name of the original classrooms to ensure we honor the legacy of those that came before us.

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7. How are we addressing security throughout the school campus?

The safety and security of our students is our number one priority. Our children deserve a safe learning environment and their parents deserve the assurance that we will continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our campus secure. Our first tier of projects speaks directly to this desire as we include in the group a comprehensive video surveillance system throughout our campus and new fencing. Tall iron fencing will wrap around the playground, securing the back corner of campus. While it will keep the unwanted out, this new fencing will not restrict movement between the playground, basketball court and courtyard. We will add a perimeter fence between McManus Hall and the D wing if we are unable to raise the funds to construct the addition between McManus Hall and the existing classroom wings.

8. How will the proposed preschool relocation impact carpool?

Moving the preschool to McManus Hall will impact the carpool flow. We will create a second lane of traffic between the Family Center and McManus Hall to serve as the preschool drop-off. Preschoolers would exit vehicles directly behind McManus, while middle school families would continue around the building in a separate line as they do now. We expect the new preschool line to cause less interruption to other school families and parishioners attending Mass or activities in the Family Center.

9. What happens if we do not reach our goal?

Our expectation is, of course, to meet or surpass the overall goal. However, the plan is set-up with multiple projects to ensure you know exactly what will be addressed as we work towards our overall goal. We will not take on any projects that we cannot afford or incur debt to complete the project.

10. How can I participate? Can I pledge over time?

Our campaign offers a wide range of gift opportunities to participate at all levels. You may choose a plan that provides you with both flexibility and time to complete the payment of your pledge. Because our needs are urgent, we encourage you to complete your pledge within three years.

11. Is my pledge legally binding? Will it be confidential?

A pledge is a gift, one you consider meaningful. All we ask is that you do your best and advise us of any financial changes that will impact your pledge. We will keep pledges as confidential as possible. Only the people responsible for maintaining the records will have access to your pledge.

12. How was a pledge amount determined?

We used a number of factors for setting request amounts: giving history to the parish and the school, past campaign support and the number shared in the planning study—if you participated. The gift request amount included in your letter is not an expectation, but an invitation. We encourage you to prayerfully consider your pledge and determine a gift amount that is sacrificial and meaningful to you. We are grateful for every gift, no matter the amount.

13. To what extent are campaign commitments tax deductible?

Gifts to the campaign are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The application of such laws varies with individual circumstances. Donors with specific questions regarding tax deductibility should contact their attorney or tax advisor.

