

Dear Parishioners,

For many months, we all saw the scaffolding along the side of the church near the rectory/office section of the building. Many people asked why the work was taking so long.

As I mentioned before, we were facing a major and unexpected repair. Water got under the roof and into the building. This caused serious interior damage and mold. While the parish employed a roofing contractor to make semi-annual inspections and make recommended repairs, the water incursion remained undetected from inside the building.

Because of this, we had to begin a large repair project that was not part of our regular parish budget.

This was an unexpected expense. We did not plan for it, but sometimes life brings situations we cannot predict, and we have to respond as best we can.

I would like to share a clear summary of this project and its costs.

What happened and why it took longer

The problem began in January 2024.

The repair took longer than expected because of:

- the increased size and scope of the work;
- required approvals (including Archdiocesan approval);
- problems with the insurance company;
- and the challenge of scheduling work involving an open roof and weather conditions.

At the beginning, the insurance company did not want to participate in the repair costs. We started with almost no coverage, but after much effort, the insurance contribution eventually reached **\$40,000**.

Scaffolding was put up in September. At first, we were told it would likely stay for about two months, but as we all saw, the work took longer.

Repair costs

Below is a summary of the major expenses related to this project:

- **Arthur Vincent and Company (exterior work and later interior finishing): \$178,600**
- **Molinelli Architects (plans and preparation): \$16,000**
- **BSB (mold remediation): \$77,952**
- **Adelaide Environmental Health Association Inc.: \$8,328**
- **Christopher Licurse Contracting (additional interior work): \$53,545**
- **Archdiocese – Capitol Project Mgmt Fee: \$11,019**

Total project cost: \$345,444

How the project was paid for

- **Insurance contribution: \$40,000**
- **Parishioner donations (for this repair): about \$80,000**
- **Parish savings/reserve used: the remaining amount**

This means that a large part of the repair had to be covered by parish funds and savings.

Gratitude for your generosity

I want to thank everyone who helped during this process.

When I spoke about these repair problems last May, many parishioners responded with great kindness and generosity. Many of you came forward quickly to help, and together you gave about **\$80,000** in donations toward this repair. I am deeply grateful for this support.

Special Thanks

I also want to offer a special word of thanks to one of our youngest parishioners, 9-year-old Emerson Papacena. After hearing my announcement about the repairs, she took it very much to heart and decided to give money from her summer work to help with the repair of our church.

She said that she loves the church and loves her parish, and she wanted to do what she could to help the church that is so dear to her heart.

This was a beautiful witness of love, generosity, and faith. **Thank you, Emerson.**

Where we stand now

Thanks to your support, the insurance contribution, and the parish savings from earlier years, we were able to pay all the bills connected to this repair.

After these expenses, our emergency reserve for unexpected situations is now much smaller than before. At this moment, we have about **\$100,000** remaining in reserve.

In the near future, I will also share information about the previous fiscal year, so that you can see more clearly how our parish finances looked overall.

This experience reminds us why careful planning, responsible savings, and regular parish support are so important. They help us respond when unexpected problems arise.

Thank you for your patience while the scaffolding was up for so long, for your prayers during a difficult and expensive repair, and for your generous support. We are pleased that the repairs that impacted Father Edison's living quarters have been completed.

I want to share this information openly because this is our parish, and we walk through these challenges together.

With gratitude,

Fr. Slawek