

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR FAITH—PROJECT 2020



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church was founded by immigrant Greek families who desired to live the fullness of the Orthodox Faith in Tacoma, WA. To this day, St. Nicholas continues to be a home of worship, fellowship, ministry, and cultural heritage. Through the spiritual life, ministry organizations, and community activities, all who enter the doors of St. Nicholas are led to the Kingdom of God. Now is the time to grow and preserve our faith for future generations.

A History of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

A Building Established

The history of St. Nicholas has been a journey of expansion, legacy, and preservation—one driven by the community's commitment to growth and their willingness to do what was necessary to cultivate it. Thanks to their faith in the future of St. Nicholas and Orthodoxy in Tacoma, WA, our forefathers paved the way for a future in which our faith could thrive for years to come.

Although the first Greeks arrived in Tacoma in 1901, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church did not exist until 1924.

Prior to 1924, the Greek community met in apartments or coffee houses for prayer, and a priest would come from Seattle to serve the occasional baptism or funeral. At last, in 1923, the necessary funds were raised to construct a church, and Nick Apostolou donated the three lots where it would be built.



The parish was organized the following year, a priest came, and the first Divine Liturgy in the newly-built church took place on Palm Sunday of 1924.

A Building Expanded

In the following years, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church became a spiritual and cultural cornerstone for the Orthodox faith and Greek culture. The community continued to fulfill its commitment to growth by adding to the church building, as well as to the community. To enhance the fellowship and community life of the parish, a lower hall was added.

In the 1980s, the Parish Council—along with the support of several ministry organizations and community members—implemented Project 2000 to pursue a number of improvements to the property, including:

- ❖ Purchase and demolition of three houses surrounding the church
- ❖ Lower hall extension
- ❖ Upper hall and narthex
- ❖ Lower parking lot—paved and fenced

More recently, improvements have been made to the Sanctuary:

- ❖ Repairs to the dome
- ❖ Iconography inside the dome
- ❖ Tile in the Sanctuary

A Building Restored

Over the years, St. Nicholas' growth has naturally been accompanied by wear and tear on the building.



As a result, our parish's focus since the turn of the century has been to preserve and restore this treasure that our predecessors worked so hard to establish and expand. Work has included:

- ❖ 2011-2012: Sanctuary structural upgrades (earthquake preparedness)
- ❖ 2013: Architectural review & surveying
- ❖ 2014: Masonry repairs, Sanctuary roof replacement, Fr. Seraphim office remodel
- ❖ 2015-2016: Sanctuary window replacement and exterior brick work

With each era of St. Nicholas' journey, the church has been a home of worship, fellowship, ministry, and culture. By the grace of God, our community has had many accomplishments. **But our work is not yet done.**

Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith—Project 2020

While the community of St. Nicholas continues to grow, our church building is in a state of decline. After 90 years in existence, the church building is in dire need of major repairs and renovation to support our community's growth for years to come. We must address these critical building issues if St. Nicholas is to remain the spiritual, cultural, and community home that our predecessors built it to be.

Project 2020 will focus on a renovation of the narthex.

As the first in a series of building projects, Project 2020 represents a deliberate turn toward growth, with faith in our future for the future of our faith.

Why the narthex, why now?

Now that the Sanctuary has been secured with seismic upgrades, re-roofing, and new windows, St. Nicholas is ready to address the next critical building issue. The Parish Council, the Building Committee, and outside engineering consultants have identified that the narthex is the area with the greatest decay, water intrusion, and need for repair. This area includes the Yakima street entrance, narthex entry area, Fr. Seraphim's office, and all points where the narthex attaches to the church building. This decision emerged from a professional survey of all the damaged areas—of which there are several. The survey revealed that the narthex beams are rotting, rust is forming, and water cannot be stopped from entering. There is no solution to stave off decay, which is why the necessary approach is to undertake not just a simple remodel, but a major renovation of the entire narthex. Whether it's through a deliberate renovation or unaddressed decay, the narthex will come off the church.

What opportunity does the narthex present?

The narthex holds a special spiritual significance in the architecture of the church. Each time we enter the church, the narthex marks our transition out of the world and into the Kingdom of God present on this earth.

Project 2020 is the first major building project for our community this century. Not only will the narthex renovation address our most critical building need, but it is a key pivot to growth. Just as the narthex is the entry point into the church, so also is the narthex renovation an entry point to a long-term effort of improving our church home.

*The question we face is:
Will we act quickly, deliberately,
and with vision to preserve this
spiritually significant area and
move the church away from decline
and toward growth?*

Faith in our Future for the Future of our Faith: Project Details

Area to be Renovated

The narthex renovation includes the Yakima Street entrance, narthex area, Fr. Seraphim's office, and the points where the narthex attaches to the rest of the church building.

Project Components

1. A significant fundraising effort to cover the costs of the renovation.
2. Design, engineering, and architecture.
3. Street edge improvements and repairs to sidewalks surrounding the church exterior. This work is necessary to bring St. Nicholas into legal compliance with the City of Tacoma so that we can pursue the permits necessary for the narthex renovation.
4. Construction. The beginning of construction depends on the speed of fundraising. \$650,000 must be raised by September 2019 so that construction can be completed between Pascha 2020 and Festival 2020.

Project Cost

Street edge improvements and repairs as mandated by the City of Tacoma	\$100,000
Narthex renovation construction	\$300,000
Sales tax, architect and engineering fees, and testing	\$120,000
Contingency and cost escalation	\$130,000
Total Renovation Costs	\$650,000

Work Included:

\$650,000 funds the narthex construction and the work necessary for construction to even begin (street edge improvements, permitting, fees, design, etc.).

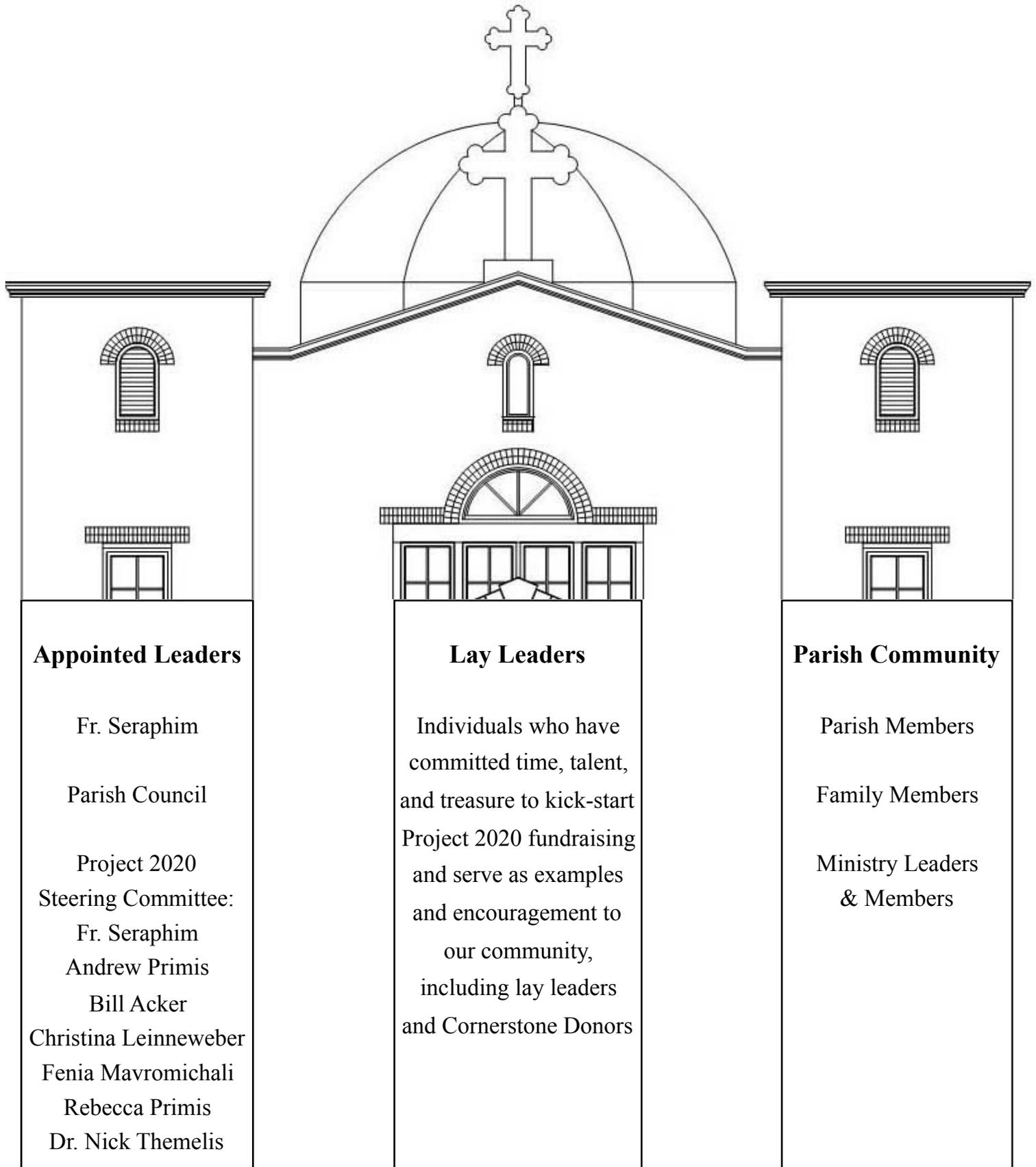
A significant portion has been designated for contingencies to cover three years of inflation, old building uncertainties, and code compliance that gets stricter and more expensive with time.

Not Included:

- ❖ New iconography
- ❖ New furniture, such as candle or icon stands
- ❖ Ironwork—perimeter or gateway

Faith in our Future for the Future of our Faith—Leadership

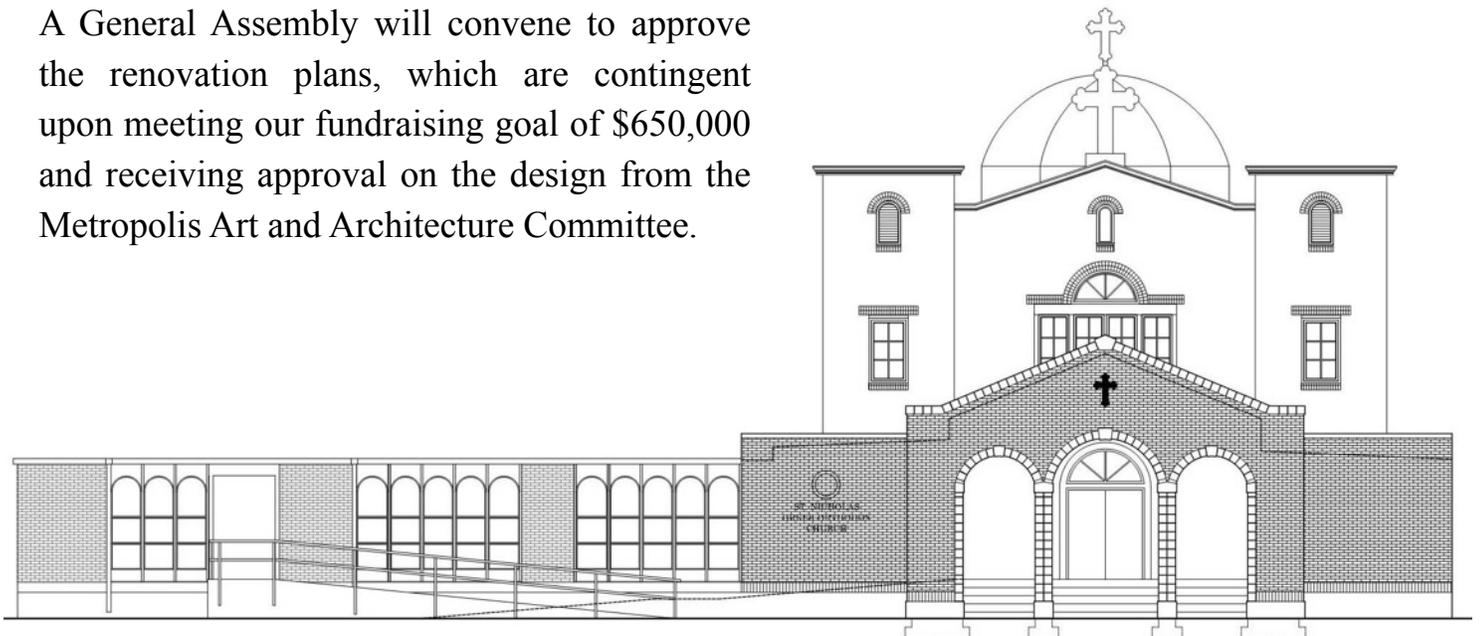
Project 2020 will require unity, prayers, and financial support from each St. Nicholas parishioner as he or she is able. There are three key pillars of leadership involved in achieving Project 2020.



Faith in our Future for the Future of our Faith—Decision Process

Given that the narthex renovation and related fundraising effort will be a parish-wide endeavor, you may wonder who will decide what the renovated narthex will look like. This project will be driven by expert leadership and include the following opportunities for both accountability and community feedback along the way:

1. The Building Committee, the Project 2020 Steering Committee, and the Parish Council will conduct the initial vetting of all project and fundraising plans. As with any architectural undertaking, St. Nicholas is required to follow the traditional Byzantine design parameters set forth and enforced by the Metropolis and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Several design elements will be determined by these Metropolis guidelines.
2. The Council of Ministries will review the full renovation plan and offer feedback. This step provides an extra layer of vetting to ensure we are on the right track.
3. The general scope of the project will be shared with the entire parish. This information will be communicated at regular intervals and include details of renovation and construction plans, finishes, costs, fundraising needs and progress, and general design plans. Town halls will be scheduled so that the entire parish has a chance to offer feedback.
4. Once thoroughly vetted, Fr. Seraphim will submit the design proposal to the Metropolis Art and Architecture Committee. This approval is required in order to move forward with design and construction.
5. A General Assembly will convene to approve the renovation plans, which are contingent upon meeting our fundraising goal of \$650,000 and receiving approval on the design from the Metropolis Art and Architecture Committee.



Preliminary plans and drawings for the narthex renovation are displayed in the lower fellowship hall.

Faith in our Future for the Future of our Faith—Timeline

The following milestones are based on two goals:

1. Fundraising Goal: \$650,000 in the bank by September 2019.
2. Renovation Goal: Narthex completed before Greek Festival 2020.

Fundraising Timeline	Renovation Timeline
May 2017-September 2017 Outreach to Cornerstone Contributors to jump-start fundraising	Early 2017 Purchase of vacated land in front of church building for permitting <i>[Completed]</i>
Pentecost: June 4, 2017 Project 2020 Official Launch	
June 4-August 31, 2017 Kick-off contributions collected	
August 13, 2017 Reminder to turn in Pledge Cards	
September 3, 2017 Pledge Cards due	
September 2017-September 2019 Fundraising with regular progress updates for the community	
September 2019 Fundraising goal of \$650,000 met Narthex renovation moves forward	
	October 2019-April 2020 Construction design, permitting, contractor selection, and contract signed
	May 2020-September 2020 Narthex construction and completion Target completion is between Pascha 2020 and Greek Festival 2020

How You Can Help

Each one of us is a caretaker of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Our building is an anchor for our spiritual lives, as well as our ministry and cultural heritage. By taking care of our building, we preserve the faith, tradition, legacy, and ministry contained within it. We help ensure St. Nicholas continues to be a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, others are welcomed to the Faith, and all of us find salvation. Our journey into the future of our faith is dependent on the unified support of the parish.

Make a Financial Pledge

Our project pledge cards provide an opportunity to make a two-year commitment to contribute to the project. There is no required minimum or maximum—only the opportunity to give from your heart as you are able.

On average, if every household in the parish contributed \$100 per month for 24 months, St. Nicholas would raise the majority of the funds needed to complete the narthex renovation.

Parishioners can make contributions online at stnicholastacoma.org, beginning in September 2017. This is a great option for one-time gifts, memorial contributions, or donating toward your two-year pledge commitment.

Buy a Brick

Approximately 6,000 bricks will be needed to construct the narthex. Over the next few months, parishioners will be able to support the project by buying a brick—or several!—at \$5 each. Please note that bricks will not be engraved or inscribed, as they will be used for the narthex exterior. Buying a brick is a special opportunity to contribute an important physical element to the renovated narthex. Parents, this is a great way to get your kids involved! Consider letting them buy a brick so they feel like they are part of the effort, too.

How You Can Stay Informed

As we move forward, here are a few ways you can stay informed of the narthex renovation's progress:

- ❖ Important project information and updates will be available on www.stnicholastacoma.org.
- ❖ Updates will be shared monthly in the St. Nicholas Messenger, weekly in the Sunday bulletin, and regularly via email.
- ❖ A Project 2020 Information Board located in the downstairs hall as part of the forthcoming Ministry Center.
- ❖ Quarterly informational coffee hours/town halls.

Acknowledgments

**Thank you to our sister parish of
Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, GA**

Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Alex Miltiades, and others have generously shared expertise and materials to help St. Nicholas launch Project 2020. This informational booklet and the accompanying pledge card have been modeled after Holy Transfiguration's materials for their recent capitol campaign.

Thank you to Mark Robinson
for contributing the beautiful photo on the front cover of this booklet.

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FROM "OUR FIRST FIFTY YEARS"

Opening Day, April 5, 1925



**Please contact the following individuals if you have questions about
*Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith.***

General Questions or to Offer Assistance:

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