

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study

Dear Stewards and Friends of Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church,

The future of our beloved Church is unclear. Worldwide, Christianity is under duress from the strong force of secularism. With every published faith survey, we witness the growth of “nones” – those who identify with no faith tradition and the subsequent reduction of believing Christians.

The statistics of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese confirm that Orthodoxy is not immune from these trends. Membership in the GOA shrinks with every report. Thankfully, the membership of Nativity is stable. But for how long? We live in a culture where the very existence of “Truth” is questioned. For many people “Truth” no longer serves as a moral or purposeful compass.

The Holy Orthodox Church offers healthy community spiritual engagement through shared worship of God, sacramental life, family sanctification, fellowship, hope, joy, opportunities to serve others and programs that honor cherished heritage.

“God is with us” we loudly proclaim at every annual “Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers”. We are assured that God is doing His part. It is time for our generation to do something significant for the life of our Parish!

It’s been decades since our last capital campaign. Facility enhancements and investment in our ministries are long overdue. There is no better time than NOW to undertake this sacred task. As a country we have enjoyed 12 consistent years of economic expansion and a major surge in the equity market. The value of Marin County housing has soared. Unemployment is at historic lows. Within the parish there is a nationally renowned architect who specializes in Orthodox architecture and who generously contributes his services. Qualified stewards have also contributed their vast experience in nonprofit management and development, including a parishioner who has consulted with Orthodox parishes and organization in professional fundraising for 30 years. The team at the helm of the Strategic Planning Process is composed of hard-working, visionary and faithful members of the parish, as are also Parish Council members. With Father John we have a dedicated, energetic, youthful, congenial and visionary leader whom, if it be God’s will, we will have with us together with his beautiful family for many years.

Looking back, we celebrate 50 years of faithful worship of God and growth of the community. Now we must prepare for the 50 years that lie ahead of us for the next generation. What better time could there possibly be to wage a successful comprehensive capital campaign for facilities and ministries?

If you have not yet read the recent postings concerning the Strategic Planning Process on the parish website, we strongly encourage you to do so BEFORE taking the survey by going to the parish website at www.nativityofchrist.org, selecting the “Media” menu, then selecting “Strategic Planning Process” and then scrolling down to the bottom five selections. It’s truly inspirational!

The carefully estimated cost for addressing facility and ministry needs is approximately \$3,350,000. Professional studies of hundreds of capital campaigns in the nonprofit sector demonstrate the size and number of gifts required to raise this amount. This is typically displayed in a “Gift Chart”, as seen below. Even a quick glance will reveal that the top 10-20 gifts will determine if we are to be successful, though every single gift made to the campaign will be received with gratitude. Only God and the donor or donor family will know if the gift is truly sacrificial.

The Capital Campaign Gift Chart for \$3,350,000

# Gifts Needed	Gift Amount	Amount	% of Goal	Cummulative	
				Percent	Total
1	1,000,000	1,000,000	30	30	1,000,000
1	500,000	500,000	15	45	1,500,000
2	250,000	500,000	15	60	2,000,000
3	100,000	300,000	9	69	2,300,000
5	50,000	250,000	7	76	2,550,000
10	25,000	250,000	7	83	2,850,000
15	15,000	225,000	7	90	3,150,000
20	10,000	200,000	6	96	3,350,000
Many	≤5,000	150,000	4	100+	3,500,000
We exceed our goal!					

The Fundraising Feasibility Survey

This email invitation to participate in determining the future of our parish through a fundraising feasibility study is being sent to 364 family units; encouraging everyone to express their thoughts and feelings. Please understand, your responses are confidential. Only Fr. John and his assistant, Anthony Scott, our “in house” consultant, will be the ones to have access to the data of the Survey.

You have the option to leave a question blank, but the more questions that are left blank, the weaker the information becomes from the Survey. We will be much better equipped for success with your honest thoughts and feelings towards what is being presented. Remember that there is no privacy or secrecy in God’s Kingdom – only love, acceptance, forgiveness and compassion – not one iota of judging others.

The survey report will describe how survey takers in general responded to questions. There will be a random listing of all those who participated at the end of the survey report. However, responses and comments by survey takers will not be attributed to any specific person.

Your input will provide the information needed to formulate the fundraising plan.

Please read these important Notes:

- If you have not yet viewed the recent Strategic Planning postings on the parish website, we greatly encourage you to do so BEFORE taking the survey. Go to the parish website at www.nativityofchrist.org; select the “Media” menu; then select “Strategic Planning Process” and then scroll down to the bottom five selections;
- The unanimous vote to go forward at the Parish Assembly on August 25 not only passed unanimously, but also included the condition that the parish would incur no debt in undertaking the capital campaign;
- The Survey needs to be taken in one sitting. If you start, then stop, you will lose your place, so plan accordingly; there is a total of 19 questions;
- When considering a personally meaningful gift, please do pause and reflect upon the blessings that we as a community have received and we as individual persons within that community have received from God;
- We will need every family to give generously and sacrificially, as our Lord taught, if we are to be successful.

- The Survey is NOT seeking contributions, though one question asks you to estimate what you MIGHT be able to give if circumstances allow; If it's any easier, you can enter a range of what you might give;
- For most in the parish, the length of time since the last capital campaign has likely conditioned gifts to include only a reflection on monthly income; let each of us also remember that assets also come from God;
- The last possible date when a survey will be included will be November 8.
- When the actual campaign to raise the funds begins, families will be offered the opportunity to give over a three-year pledge; of course the sooner pledges are honored the sooner work on facilities and ministries can begin.
- Here is the Link to the Survey: [The Campaign Feasibility Survey](#). The Link to the Survey can also be found on the Parish website under the "Media/Strategic Planning Process" menu choices.

Yours in Christ,

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

Fr. John Kocolas

Spiro Stratigos

Christos Kamages

Steve Rouman

Vicki Kalabokes

Anthony Scott