

January 2026 Building on Our Faith

Connect • Engage • Grow

Walking Tour

On Sunday, December 14, 22 parishioners of Nativity of Christ toured the spaces envisioned for our proposed enhancements.

Experiencing the physical spaces - augmented by colorful images - generated thoughtful questions, sparked engaging conversation, and helped parishioners clearly visualize what the spaces will become. The tour gave participants a fuller understanding of how these enhancements will truly be Building on Our Faith.

Join us for our next walking tour on Sunday, January 18.

We look forward to seeing you there!



BEFORE

AFTER



January 18 Walking Tour

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BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

Sunday, January 18 following the Divine Liturgy



WALKING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Narthex/Gateway
- Enlarged Dome
- Small Hall Addition
- Elevator/ADA Access
- Drop Off/ADA Access
- Walk of Faith Path

COME AND SEE

*Take a walking tour with the Steering Committee
and experience our vision for the future.*

Hiring of Orthodox Consultant

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Dear Stewards and Faithful of Nativity of Christ,

Once again, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have given so much of your time, talent, and treasure toward the execution of our Beyond 50 Strategic Plan. As we continue our work together to fulfill that Plan, we have now come to the critical stage of implementing a formal capital campaign.

Launching a successful capital campaign is a significant undertaking. This effort requires careful planning, thoughtfulness, and the consideration of every Nativity of Christ steward—each of us is needed to support this important cause.

To ensure the success of this campaign, the Parish Council and the Beyond 50 Steering Committee felt it necessary to seek professional guidance. We are pleased to announce that Jerry Minetos will be joining us as a consultant to help lead the way. (See bio below.)

Jerry is a professional, seasoned, Orthodox Christian consultant with over 25 years of experience. He's played a critical role in helping Orthodox churches all across the country achieve longstanding goals, including raising millions of dollars for Orthodox Christian projects. His deep faith and extensive expertise will be invaluable as we embark on this journey together.

Save the Date: Jerry will make his first presentation to our parish on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**. We encourage *all* parishioners to join us for Liturgy, followed by meeting Jerry to hear about the exciting plans ahead. We look forward to welcoming him to our parish.

In Christ,

Beyond 50 Steering Committee and NOC Parish Council

Jerry Minetos

About Jerry Minetos: A Proven Leader in Orthodox Fundraising

Jerry Minetos, raised in Chicago, holds an undergraduate degree in Accounting from Loyola University and is a Certified Public Accountant in Illinois. He is also fully certified in philanthropy, nonprofit management, and institutional advancement from the Fund-Raising School at Indiana University. Jerry, and with his wife Margaret, have three children and four grandchildren. One of their sons is a Greek Orthodox priest at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

For over 25 years, Jerry has been at the forefront of helping Orthodox Christian communities across the country raise millions of dollars to support their missions. His expertise spans a range of areas, including capital campaigns, annual giving, planned giving, grant writing, and event fundraising—each of which has played a crucial role in sustaining ministries and advancing the work of the Church.



February 2026 Building on Our Faith

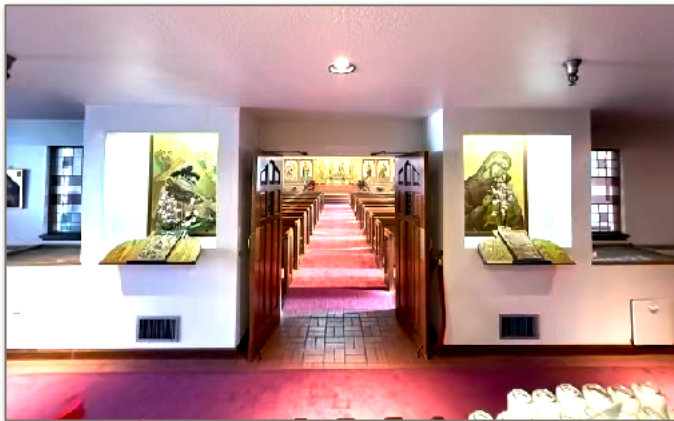
Connect • Engage • Grow

On Sunday, January 18, parishioners of Nativity of Christ toured the spaces envisioned for our proposed enhancements.

Experiencing these physical spaces—augmented by colorful rendered images—prompted thoughtful questions, sparked engaging conversation, and helped participants clearly see what they will become. The tour provided a deeper understanding of how these enhancements will truly be **Building on Our Faith**.



CURRENT



PROPOSED



Jerry Minetos Visits in January

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Jerry Minetos' Visit

Our Orthodox capital campaign consultant, Jerry Minetos, made his first visit to Nativity of Christ from Thursday, January 22, through Sunday, January 25. During his time with us, he met individually with twenty parishioners as part of the Parish Council Planning Study, an effort designed to better understand personal perspectives, questions, and overall support for the goals of the *Building On Our Faith* initiative.

On Sunday, January 25, Jerry addressed the parish following the Divine Liturgy and enjoyed further conversation and engagement with parishioners during Fellowship Hour. He will return for a second visit from February 18–22 and hopes that as many parishioners as possible will take the opportunity to meet with him. A SignUpGenius link will be available in the coming weeks.

The Steering Committee and Parish Council are grateful for the continued support of our parishioners and look forward to moving our community ahead with a shared vision and unified purpose.

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Building on Our Faith Initiative

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Jerry Minetos' Visit

Our Orthodox capital campaign consultant, Jerry Minetos, made his second visit to Nativity of Christ February 19-22. During his time with us, he met individually with an additional twenty parishioners as part of the Parish Council Planning Study, an effort designed to better understand personal perspectives, questions, and overall support for the goals of the *Building On Our Faith* initiative.

Jerry addressed the parish following the Divine Liturgy and enjoyed further conversation and engagement with parishioners during Fellowship Hour. He will continue to meet with as many parishioners as possible via Zoom. All parishioners are encouraged to meet with Jerry in the coming weeks so a comprehensive Planning Study can be presented to the parish after Pascha.

The Steering Committee and Parish Council are grateful for the continued support of our parishioners and look forward to moving our community ahead with a shared vision and unified purpose.



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BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

NEXT STEPS

SUNDAY, MAY 3

FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



Join us as our Orthodox
capital campaign consultant,
Jerry Minetos, presents the

results of Nativity's Building On Our Faith
Planning Study. The Steering Committee
will then reveal the next steps, shaped by your
voices and vision for the future.



Building on Our Faith Initiative

May 3

On Sunday, May 3, our Orthodox fundraising consultant, Jerry Minetos, shared the detailed findings of the Planning Study in a presentation to the parish. His message was overwhelmingly positive, and he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present such encouraging results for the future of our parish.

Steve Rouman, representing the Steering Committee, followed with next steps. Jerry Minetos will immediately begin preparations for a fundraising campaign. Simultaneously, the construction documents will be further refined until their submission to the City of Novato.

We invite you to review both presentations by visiting our parish website. Please reach out to the Steering Committee with any additional questions.



Building On Our Faith: FAQs

As we work together to complete our remaining capital projects, a fundraising campaign began in June 2026 and will continue into the Fall. Regular updates on the campaign will be shared with the community through the WORD and weekly Thursday email communications. All parishioners are encouraged to visit the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#) on Nativity's website. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to any committee member on the Steering Committee:

Steering Committee

Parish Council

Bill Adams, Chrisoula Capetanos, Paul Efstathiou,
Nick Eftimiou, Nonda Kozas, Angie Kozas, Kathy
Marshall, Giorgis Sotiras, Pete Stathis, Spiro Stratigos,
Karen Walters, Michael Yakumithis

Planning, Design, Construction

Nick Eftimiou, Eileen Gordon, Bryan Hall, John Hunter,
Christ Kamages, Ed Keller, and Nonda Kozas

Communication

Dina Camamis, Fran Corcoran, Kathy Marshall,
and Matina Seremetis

Fundraising and Finance

Chris Kalabokes, Steve Rouman, Tony Saris,
and Chris Seifkas



Building on Our Faith September Word

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Building on Our Faith

The Building on Our Faith Initiative continues to move forward, and we are excited to see this vision for the future of Nativity of Christ take shape. This is an important moment in the life of our parish, **and we ask for everyone's involvement, prayers, and support as we move forward together.**

Progress Update

- **Fundraising Campaign Materials:** Our Communication Team is preparing fundraising campaign materials, which will soon be distributed throughout our parish community. These materials will provide more information about the vision, the projects, and how each of us can participate.
- **Design and Planning:** Christ Kamages and his team at CJK continue to refine the plans in preparation for submitting construction documents to the City of Novato for permit approval.
- **Design Forum - Sunday, September 20:** All parishioners are invited to attend a special forum to review and discuss the designs before they are finalized. This will be an important opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and provide feedback as we prepare for the next stage of the project.
- **Jerry Minetos:** In the months ahead, Jerry Minetos will visit our parish to meet personally with parishioners, answer questions, and help families prayerfully consider their participation in this historic effort.

As we reflect upon all that God has accomplished through our parish, each of us is invited to prayerfully consider a gift that reflects our gratitude for His many blessings and our hope for the generations who will one day worship, grow, and encounter Christ at Nativity of Christ.

Learn more about the Building on Our Faith Initiative by visiting www.nativityofchrist.org/buildingonourfaith.

Together, with faith and gratitude, let us rise up and build!



September 20 Workshop

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BUILDING ON OUR FAITH: DESIGN FORUM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

📍 Immediately following Divine Liturgy in Fellowship Hall

Come and see, review and discuss!

Thanks to your feedback, our church building plans have been further refined.

This one-hour community forum is the last opportunity to review the design before finalized plans are submitted to the City of Novato for building permits.

*We cannot wait to share
this exciting milestone with you!*



Building on Our Faith -October Word

Building on Our Faith

The Design Forum on Sunday, September 20, gave parishioners an opportunity to review, and provide feedback, to the refined plans before the project moves to the construction documents phase. These documents will then be submitted to the City of Novato, hopefully, before the end of the year. Parishioners were encouraged to review the campus markings, walk-through video of the project, and Frequently Asked Questions document. These videos and documents are now all available on our [church website](#).



Steve Rouman, the Steering Committee Chair, opened the discussion with a review and some exciting updates:

- The Building on Our Faith initiative represents the next major phase of our parish's long-term vision to strengthen and enhance our campus and ministries. Building on the accomplishments of the past several years, our parish has demonstrated remarkable generosity—raising and donating hundreds of thousands of dollars without a formal fundraising campaign. This generosity has strengthened our ministries, expanded our philanthropy and outreach, and allowed us to make significant improvements throughout the campus.



Building on Our Faith -October Word

- The Building on Our Faith Steering Committee, together with architect Christ Kamages and CJK Design, has carefully considered feedback from parishioners and refined the proposed plans. The overall vision remains consistent, with what has previously been presented, while incorporating several important design refinements.

Christ Kamages reviewed the various elements of the design refinements which include:

- a new location for the elevator, and
- the addition of an adult baptistry.

A fruitful and productive discussion ensued as parishioners became familiar with the design and the entire process.

- To date, nearly \$600,000 has been raised through cash and in-kind contributions. More than \$200,000 has been invested in city planning, engineering, and consulting, while approximately \$200,000 in architectural services has been generously donated by CJK Design. The parish currently has approximately \$160,000 in restricted cash dedicated to the Building on Our Faith initiative. All of this has been accomplished prior to a formal fundraising process.
- On Sunday, October 18, Jerry Minetos will update the parish on the fundraising process. Soon, the parish will embark on the more public phase of the campaign where more detailed information will be openly publicized and shared. Join our family in making a contribution, of any size, to this important campaign in what we view to be a historic moment in the life of our church.

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, October 18 to hear from Jerry Minetos!

