

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

Building on Our Faith Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2026

The following questions and answers are intended to keep parishioners informed about the Building On Our Faith Initiative, the first major capital project undertaken by the Nativity of Christ community in more than 35 years. This page will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. Please check back often.

The Specific Capital Projects

1. Why are each of the following projects being considered?

- ***Elevator***

The proposed elevator will improve campus accessibility and enhance participation in church activities. It will be located on the exterior corner of the Large Hall, closest to the classroom/administrative building.

- ***Narthex***

The proposed Narthex expansion will significantly improve the flow and functionality of the church entrance. It includes restrooms, a bride/cry room, and much-needed storage space. The expansion will also better accommodate processions and other liturgical functions of the church.

- ***Small Hall***

A Small Hall would provide a more intimate space for parish gatherings and outreach activities. It was included in the original Fellowship Hall design, and its foundation already exists.

- ***Enlarged Dome***

The proposed enlarged dome would symbolize heaven and eternity featuring Christ's presence through the icon of the Pantocrator (All-Powerful, or Ruler of All). Twice the size of the current cupola, it would provide space for traditional Orthodox iconography and be more appropriately scaled for the size of the church.

What were the Findings of the Planning Study?

The Planning Study revealed a supportive and resolute parish. For more details, click [here](#) or visit the church website and navigate to Home>Parish>Beyond 50 Plan>Beyond 50 Updates>Planning Study Summary.

The City of Novato Process

1. When will the construction documents be finalized?

We anticipate submitting the construction documents to the City of Novato by the end of 2026.

2. What is the timeline for receiving building permits?

Once the construction documents are submitted, City of Novato officials anticipate that the permit review process will take approximately four to six months.

3. When can construction begin?

Construction will begin when a) we receive our building permit, b) all funds and/or financing are in place, and c) the parishioners vote to approve the expenditure at a special Parish Assembly meeting.

Construction

1. Will the church be able to function during the construction?

Yes. Construction will take place to support and facilitate the needs of the parish as appropriate.

2. Can the planned construction be completed in phases?

Yes, but completing all four elements as a single project is the most cost-effective approach.

3. What capital improvements will be completed first?

Our goal is to complete all four projects together. However, the community's responses during the fundraising phase will help determine how the project moves forward.

The Planning Study identified the following parish priorities:

Elevator 85% support	(Identified as a need)
Narthex 75% support	(Identified as a need)
Sm. Hall 63% support	(Identified as a need/want)
Dome 43% support	(Identified as a want)

4. How do we expand the original concept/design of NOC, preserving the founders' intent to build a church that represents the humble beginnings of a Greek village?

Inspired by the existing materials and architectural features, such as textured stucco, shingled roofs, and various arches, the capital projects are designed to feel like a natural extension of the original construction.

Finance

1. What is the total cost of the projects?

McDevitt's conceptual bid, estimates \$4 million will be needed to complete the proposed projects. This estimate is available on the church website.

2. Are we factoring in budget unknowns?

Yes, a 20% contingency is included in the project budget. McDevitt Construction included a 10% contingency in its estimate, and the Parish Council added an additional 10% to account for unforeseen costs.

3. Will each project need 100% funding to start, or is debt being considered?

The Parish Assembly approval desired that all projects be fully funded before construction begins. Ultimately, the path forward will depend on the success of the Capital Campaign and a careful assessment of the parish's financial position.

Because parishioners will have up to three years to fulfill their pledges, the full amount may not be available at the start of construction. In that case, a construction loan may be considered to bridge the gap and avoid delays or increased costs. The Finance Committee may also evaluate additional borrowing options if needed to complete the project.

Any decision to begin construction without 100% of funds in hand would require approval at a Special Parish Assembly.

4. When do we begin paying our general contractor, McDevitt Construction?

Payments to the contractor begin at the start of construction.

Fundraising

1. Why have we hired a professional fundraiser?

Following the successful completion of the Planning Study, the Parish Council and the Building On Our Faith Steering Committee determined that continuing to work with Jerry Minetos during the fundraising phase would provide valuable continuity and expertise. Having already met with parishioners and gained a thorough understanding of our parish, Jerry is well positioned to guide us through this next stage of the initiative. His decades of experience working with Orthodox churches on major capital projects will help us carry out this effort in an organized and thoughtful manner.

2. When will the fundraising campaign start?

The fundraising campaign will begin in June 2026 and continue throughout the Fall.

3. How can we track fundraising goals and progress?

Regular updates on the campaign will be shared with the community through the WORD, weekly Thursday email communications, and USPS mailings. In addition, an information table will be set up during Fellowship on Sundays, where parishioners can receive updates and ask questions of members of the Steering Committee and the Communication Team.

4. How much will each parishioner be asked to donate?

There is no set amount, and no one is under any obligation to give. Each parishioner is invited to participate at a level that reflects their financial ability and commitment to the future of our beloved Nativity of Christ community.

5. Is the church accepting stock or other assets as a way of fulfilling a pledge?

Yes, the Finance Committee is available to discuss how assets may be used to fulfill a pledge, including stock, real estate, and other holdings.

6. Can I give toward a specific project?

The parish encourages unrestricted gifts to provide flexibility as the projects move forward.