

January Beyond 50

Connect • Engage • Grow



Sparkle Foundation Holiday Gift Drive

On December 10 and 11, Nativity of Christ hosted the annual Sparkle Foundation Holiday Gift Drive. Hundreds of volunteers gathered on our campus to organize, wrap, and distribute gifts to 70 single mothers and their families. It always is an inspiring effort to gather the greater community on our grounds, and this year we were blessed to have this event covered by KTVU FOX 2 News.

This serves as yet another important reminder that our facilities and ministries function synergistically for the sacred work of our Church. With our renovated and cared for facilities, we remain an attractive and available space for local non-profits that share our goals of service to those in need. May we continue and strive to Connect, Engage, and Grow through our Beyond 50 Plan!



Sparkle
FOUNDATION INC.
women helping women

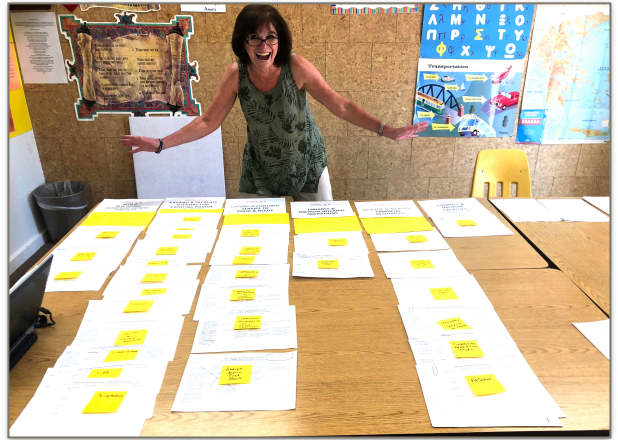


February Beyond 50

Connect • Engage • Grow



On Saturday, January 22, 2022, Nativity of Christ lost a faithful and dedicated steward. Vicki Kalabokes was an extraordinary leader in various ministries and activities of our Parish but she was by far the most passionate, driven, and excited for the implementation and success of the Beyond 50 Plan.



Vicki spent countless hours brainstorming, planning, communicating, and preparing with the Parish Council, Steering Committee, ministry leaders and numerous parishioners to create critical goals and an inspiring vision for the next 50 years of our Parish through the Beyond 50 Plan.

In the beginning of 2020, she was also prepared to lead the Beyond 50 Campaign to fund the ministerial and capital needs of the Plan. Even during Covid and amidst her health challenges, Vicki would still write these monthly summaries of the Beyond 50 to communicate the ongoing implementation and success of this historic endeavor of Nativity of Christ.

At the March 6th Parish Assembly, we look forward to sharing the progress of the Beyond 50 Plan as well as introducing the initiation of the Beyond 50 Campaign. There is nothing Vicki would have wanted more than to see us continue this initiative and propel our community to the next 50 years in order to:

Connect. Engage. Grow.

May God give eternal rest to His servant Victoria, and may we all find her strength and faith in our Risen Lord! Eternal be her memory!

March Beyond 50

Connect • Engage • Grow



Serving those in need is a major goal of our Beyond 50 Plan and a foundational characteristic of an Orthodox Christian faith. Please feel encouraged to invite your family members, coworkers, schoolmates, and friends to join us on Saturday, April 2, as we “feed the multitudes” by making 25,000 meals! Donations can also be sent to the Church Office. Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE

Nativity of Christ Lenten Outreach Meal Packing Event with Harvest Pack



Join us as we pack 25,000 Meals for the
Hungry in our community and beyond!



Saturday, April 2
9 AM to 11 AM

Learn More at harvestpack.org

April Beyond 50

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As we gathered for our Spring Parish Assembly on Sunday, March 6, the Sunday of Forgiveness, we were reminded of the importance of forgiveness on our journey to become closer to Christ. We may not always agree with one another but for our Community to thrive we must always forgive. How many times must we forgive our neighbor? As many times as we hope God will forgive us.

Our parish continues to grow and flourish. Our 2021 year-end financial report was strong. The highlight being, for the second year in a row, not only were our stewardship donations over \$300K but we also increased the number of members. For most of 2021, we also were able to make double payments on the Parish Home, bringing our outstanding balance down to \$100K. With Covid hopefully behind us, we look forward to hosting our annual festival and other fundraisers so we can increase our reserves and be able to donate more to local charities.

Spiro Stratigos underlined the many improvements to our facilities last year including renovations of the parking lot, landscaping work outside the Narthex for fire safety and beautification of the entry of our church, major repairs to the balconies outside the large and small halls, and renovations of the kitchens in the large and small halls.

Steve Rouman provided an update on the Beyond 50 Plan, and Christ Kamages provided visuals for the renovation of the Church building entrance. It is also worth noting that over \$650,000 (~20% of our original goal) has been pledged thus far.

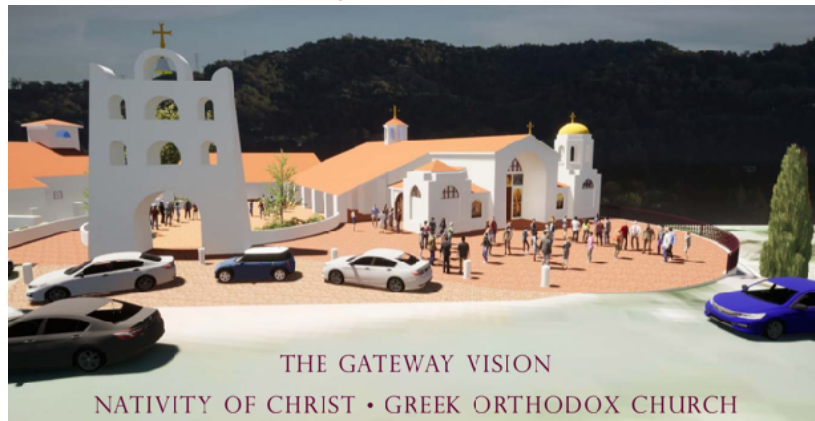
We thank the many ministry leaders for their service and for the update on their ministry including: Philoptochos, Narthex Greeters, Community Outreach, Welcome Ministry, Young Families, GOYA, Young Adults, Folk Dance, Religious Education, Choir, Visitation, and Adult Education.

Five Key Meeting Takeaways

1. If you have not done so, please submit your 2022 Stewardship Pledge Card ASAP.
2. Next time you attend church, introduce yourself to someone you do not know. Everyone likes to feel welcomed.
3. Our annual festival is around the corner. Many hands are needed before, during, and after the event. Don't wait to be asked, contact Rose Hunter to volunteer your talents today!
4. The Beyond 50 committee wants to hear from you and how each of us can participate to make the Beyond 50 Plan a reality.
5. Forgive, Forgive, Forgive and don't forget to go to Confession.

Wishing all a blessed Lent.

What is the latest with Beyond 50?



Sunday, May 22 after Liturgy

Fr. John will offer a presentation on the Beyond 50 Plan in order to engage with stewards and answer the following questions:

- *What are the goals of the Plan?*
- *What have we accomplished?*
- *What is there still left to do?*
- *What steps are being made to make it all a reality?*
- *How can I get involved in the Beyond 50 Plan?*

We look forward to hearing and speaking with each of you to help propel our community through the next 50 years and BEYOND!

May Beyond 50

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Funded through the Beyond 50 Plan, Nativity of Christ partnered with Harvest Pack during Great Lent to host a meal-packing event at our church hall on Saturday, April 2. The event was in keeping with our Beyond 50 outreach commitment to serve the poor and the needy, and our goal was to make 25,000 meal packages to give to a local charity for distribution.

With over 100 volunteers in attendance, both from our parish and members of the greater community, we far exceeded our goal by assembling a total of 26,496 packages of nutritionally fortified oatmeal that were donated locally to the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank and to Meals on Wheels. Harvest Pack showed a video at the start of the packing event that revealed that 10.5% of households in the United States suffer from food insecurity and it has increased even more as a result of the pandemic. May we as Orthodox Christians continue to shine our light onto others and pay our blessings forward with all glory to God!



What is the latest with Beyond 50?



BEYOND 50 GATHERINGS

Petaluma: Thursday, June 9th at Paul & Kristen Efstathiou's

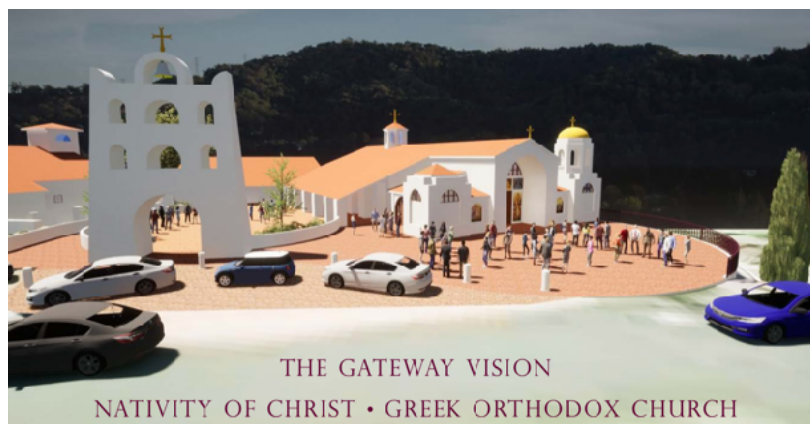
Novato: Thursday, June 16th at Pete & Dina Stathis'

Belvedere: Monday, June 20th at Andy Pineda & Matina Seremetis'

San Rafael: Thursday, June 30th at Steve & Liz Rouman's

All gatherings will be at 7 pm with refreshments, fellowship, and exciting discussion about our Beyond 50 Plan!

We encourage you to review the video of Fr. John's presentation from Sunday, May 22 on the Nativity website to see all the full update on the Beyond 50 and future plans we have to complete the remaining goals.



July-August Beyond 50

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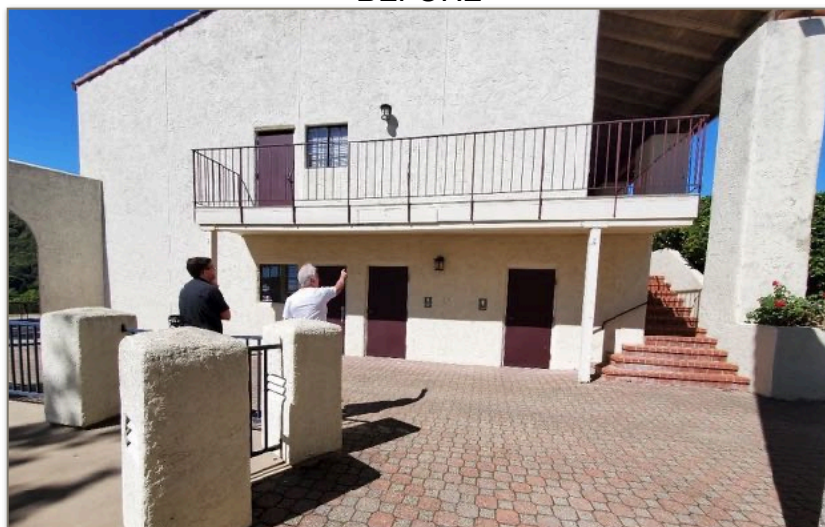
On Sunday, May 22, Father John gave a Beyond 50 Update at Fellowship Hour. A video of his presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8AXv4x8ZTQ>. We also thank the Efsthiau, Stathis, Seremetis, and Rouman families for hosting Beyond 50 Gatherings to continue discussions about the Plan.

Simultaneously, the final construction and finishing touches of our new balcony were completed just in time for the Marin Greek Festival. With the previous balcony unsalvageable due to years of wear and dry rot, brand new posts and beams were installed to provide a safe, functional, and attractive new balcony.

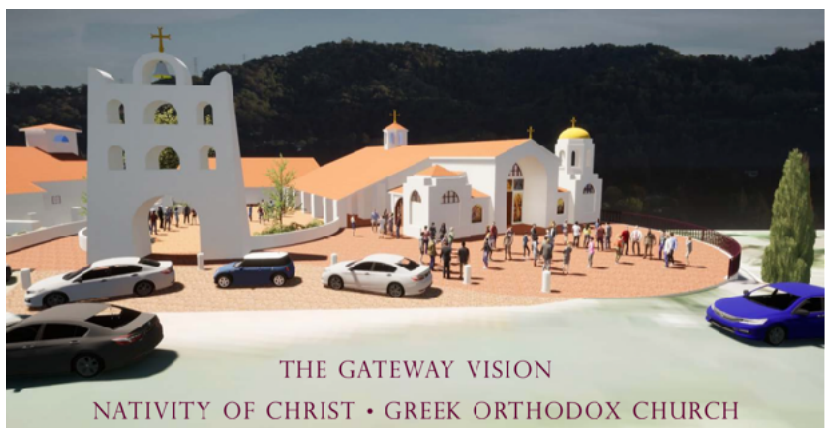
Unrestricted funds were used for this project, and we're grateful to always have a financial reserve for these types of emergencies. Of the \$2.5 million that we are striving to raise for the Beyond 50 Plan, \$250,000 is meant to be allocated for ongoing maintenance items. This will help insure that projects such as the balcony will not affect or jeopardize the financial reserves of the parish.

We pray you reflect upon a three-year pledge to offer for the Beyond 50 Plan to help us complete the approved goals of our Beyond 50 Plan.

BEFORE



AFTER





Beyond 50 Goal: Develop and Increase Financial Resources

Ever since the Parish House was purchased in 2016, a major goal was to pay off the mortgage as quickly as possible. **It is with great joy and excitement that, in July, the Parish Council voted to commit the remaining funds to pay off the mortgage!**

As we move forward from this wonderful accomplishment, it is important to remember how we were able to pay off a \$550,000 loan in just six years (even with a pandemic!):

- **Stewardship:** Since 2016, stewardship has increased by 50% which has provided tremendous opportunity for growth in ministry and financial security. With another 50% increase, stewardship would completely cover our general operating expenses.
- **Fundraisers:** Just as the first Marin Greek Festival in 1972 helped pay for our current property, our Festival (along with other fundraising events) continues to greatly support many needs of our parish.
- **Cell Phone Antennas:** These additional funds were originally used to accumulate the down payment for the Parish Home. Through the support of our stewards, we can afford to use this revenue to help pay off the mortgage.

As we strive to increase and develop financial resources, paying off the mortgage makes additional funds available for ministries and the remaining large projects of the Beyond 50 Plan!



October Beyond 50

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NATIVITY OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BEYOND 50

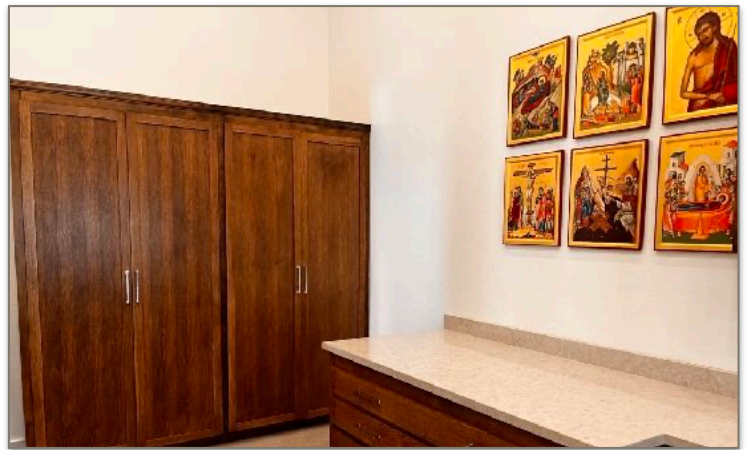
Through generous donations from Beyond 50 and Antonis Construction, the work in the vestry/sacristy has been completed. The existing cabinet frames were sanded and stained, new doors, drawer fronts, handles, countertops, carpet, and led lights were installed. This transformed space now offers a new and inviting area for visiting clergy and hierarchs. This project completes a massive renovation initiative which has included every interior space of our entire facility!

We are also currently working with civil, mechanical, and structural engineers to produce final plans for the Narthex Gateway. Stay tuned!

Before



After

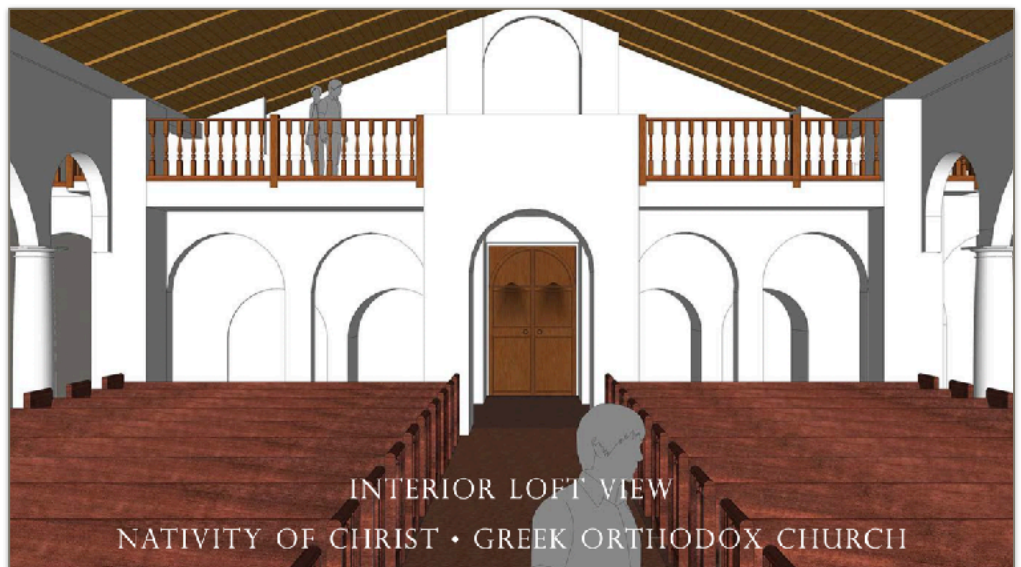
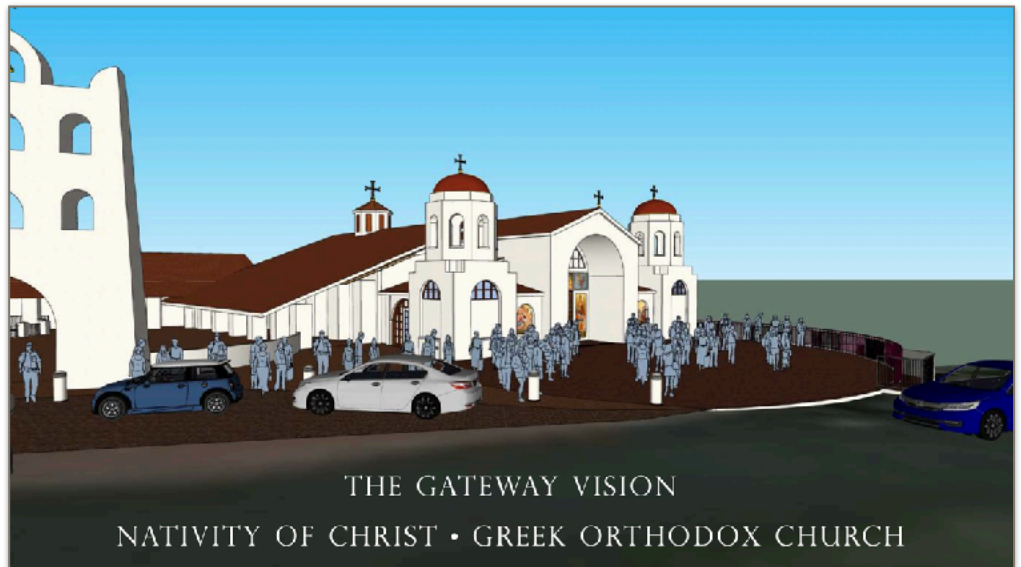


November Beyond 50

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At the Fall Parish Assembly on October 23, an update was given regarding the remaining large projects of our Beyond 50 Plan. Through the in-kind donations of CJK Architectural Studio, updated renderings were displayed to the Parish. Contracts with civil, structural, and mechanical engineers are in process to help finalize the official plans that will be submitted to the City of Novato. The Steering Committee is preparing to present at the Spring Parish Assembly the final plans, final costs, and number of pledges with the hopes of beginning construction upon City approval. Stay tuned for this exciting initiative!



New Tables

Through the funds of the Beyond 50 Plan, four new tables were purchased for the Small Hall that will offer tremendous function and ascetics for many years to come. Because the old tables were very heavy and difficult to move, the new tables have wheels, enabling them to come together for Parish Council and Philoptochos meetings. Additionally, they can also be folded to provide space for group Sunday School lessons, dance practices, or other receptions.

December Beyond 50

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What is the current state of the Beyond 50 Plan?

As reported at the Fall Parish Assembly on October 23, we have either completed or commenced work on all aspects of the original Plan, with the exception of three remaining facility enhancement projects - the Narthex Gateway, ADA Accessibility, and the Small Hall. We are currently finalizing costs for all three. Renderings have recently been submitted to the City of Novato and the process of finalizing costs should be completed by the end of 2022.

Why is an elevator being pursued over a ramp?

Both were thoroughly reviewed and the price of the two different options were very similar. The elevator is ultimately being pursued since this was the preferred solution by the majority of parishioners in need of ADA accessibility. A ramp, although also effective, would require removal and reworking of the landscaping bed closest to the Hall with an additional 130 feet of paved walkway to ensure the legally required slope.

Why has the originally proposed Small Hall now been changed to a simplified pavilion?

Costs were a major factor in simplifying this project. The original Small Hall in the Beyond 50 Plan had an estimated cost of \$850k in 2019. The simplified, open-air pavilion now has an estimated cost of \$400k. The new design also offers a openness to the surrounding space and has the potential of being enclosed at a later time.



Why is a larger dome being pursued for the church?

In an effort to pursue all possibilities for this project, enlarging the dome is now being researched to understand what the cost would be, and to engage the parish to see if this is desired by the stewards of Nativity of Christ. The purpose of including this new idea in the drawings now, is to avoid having to go back to the City of Novato at a later date for approval. It will only be pursued if approved by the parish and if there are sufficient funds received.

When will the next briefing of the Beyond 50 Plan take place?

The goal is to update the community as soon as bids for the large projects have been finalized. The next formal gathering will be the Spring Parish Assembly, tentatively scheduled for Sunday February 26, 2023.

