



# ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE MONTHLY UPDATE

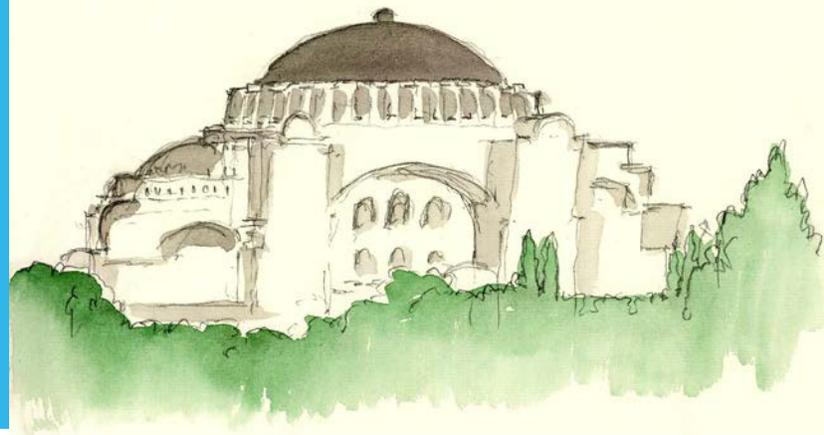
**JULY  
2020**

stnicholaswtc.org

## ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

My Beloved Brothers  
and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you in these heavy days, when our precious Hagia Sophia has been seized for re-conversion to a mosque. I want to remind all of you that the inspiration for the design of Saint Nicholas came from Hagia Sophia, as you can see by the wonderful series of watercolor sketches made by the architect, Santiago Calatrava.



Deeply moved by the magnificent icon over the south door in the Vestibule, which portrays the Emperors Constantine offering the City and Justinian offering Hagia Sophia to the Theotokos and Divine Child, the architect marvelously morphed the image of the Holy Mother into the design of the Church. And to solidify this connection with Hagia Sophia, the dome of Saint Nicholas will have forty ribs, as does the dome of the Hagia Sophia, a living reminder of the Great Church for all the world to see.

This artistic connection is also a spiritual one as well. Even as Hagia Sophia is manipulated to satisfy shortsighted exclusionary objectives of 'glory' and dominance, the Saint Nicholas National Shrine and Church will become an open and inclusive

witness of what is best in all human aspirations for the Divine. For a thousand years, Hagia Sophia was the largest edifice – religious or otherwise – in the world. Saint Nicholas will be as large, but not physically. Our Church at Ground Zero will be that shining light set on the lampstand, the manifest city on the hill (Matthew 5:14,15), that welcomes dialogue, engagement, mutual respect, and above all the Faith of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is Himself the Holy Wisdom and Word of God.

Therefore, I implore you all to take whatever sadness and pain these recent tragic events have caused you and those you love, and let us pour our hearts into finishing Saint Nicholas National Shrine

as a testament to our resilience, our steadfastness, and our faith. No matter what happens to Hagia Sophia, the Great Church will always be ours. Let us make Saint Nicholas a witness to that. Let us build our bright city on the hill of martyrdom where so many of our fellow citizens perished. And let Saint Nicholas and its glowing walls remind the world that the light of the Phanar, of the Great Church of Christ, will never be extinguished.

With paternal love  
and gratitude in Christ,

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

## FRIENDS OF SAINT NICHOLAS

Dear Friends,

**W**e, the members of the “Friends of St. Nicholas, Inc.” are happy to announce to you great developments that are happening now at our National Shrine. Even as our Archbishop and all of us are addressing the deplorable actions of the Turkish government against Hagia Sophia, we are moving forward with our Shrine.

The execution of the Skanska contract is an important milestone because it places the full commitment of the supervision, coordination and insuring of our project from now through completion. Skanska is one of the largest and most well regarded construction companies in the world. They also have a deep relationship with our Landlord, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, for whom they have completed billions of dollars in construction work both at Ground Zero as well as LaGuardia Airport.

We will recommence active construction on site in the first days of August. Waterproofing work is in progress on the Liberty Street side with anticipated completion by the end of this week. The next side will be the West (next to our main entrance) which will be coordinated with Skanska. Two lifts have been brought and the site is being primed for the painting. The crane for the skylight installation is expected to be onsite in the coming weeks. We are expecting to receive proposals for the interstitial space mitigation this week.

The project budget stands unchanged (below), but the fundraising activity has been exceptional.

**Cost to Complete (Phase II)**

Remediation Costs: .....	\$250,000
Pre-construction Costs: .....	\$96,000
Construction Costs: .....	\$38,260,025
Soft Costs (consulting): .....	\$2,121,500
Owner-direct Costs (icons, seating, AV, etc.): .....	\$1,010,000
Subtotal: .....	\$41,737,525
Project Contingency: .....	\$3,233,225
<b>Total Project Budget: .....</b>	<b>\$44,970,750</b>

Thanks to each and every one of you for your continuing commitment to the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine at Ground Zero.



Dennis Mehiel, Chairman      Michael Psaros, Vice-Chairman  
 The Friends of St. Nicholas, Inc.

- Board of Trustees
- Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, *Honorary Chairman*
- Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, *Vicar General (Advisor)*
- Dennis Mehiel, *Chairman*
- Michael Psaros, *Vice Chairman*
- John Payiavlas, *Treasurer*
- Chrysa Demos, *Secretary*
- Maria Allwin
- John Calamos
- John Catsimatidis
- John Georges
- George Marcus
- C. Dean Metropoulos
- George Mihaltses
- Dean Spanos
- George Stamboulidis



Visit the **LIVE EarthCam**

[stnicholaswtc.org/webcam](http://stnicholaswtc.org/webcam)

**PHASE II - SINCE JANUARY 2020**

Total Fundraising Goal.....	\$45 Million	Cash on Hand.....	\$19.2 Million
Contingency Reserve.....	\$3 Million	<b>Outstanding Pledges .....</b>	<b>\$19 Million</b>
Net Fundraising Goal.....	\$42 Million	<b>Funds Required To Achieve Goal .....</b>	<b>\$924,691</b>
Cash Received .....	\$25 Million		
Cash Spent .....	\$6 Million (\$5.750M to the curtain wall manufacturer)		



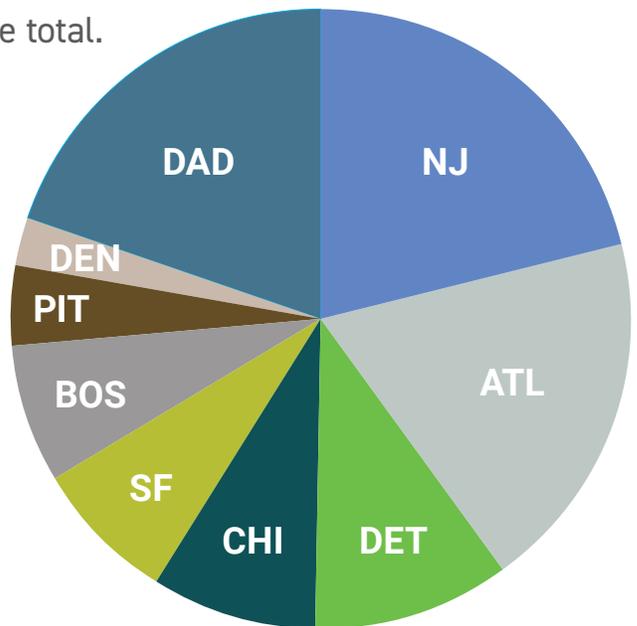
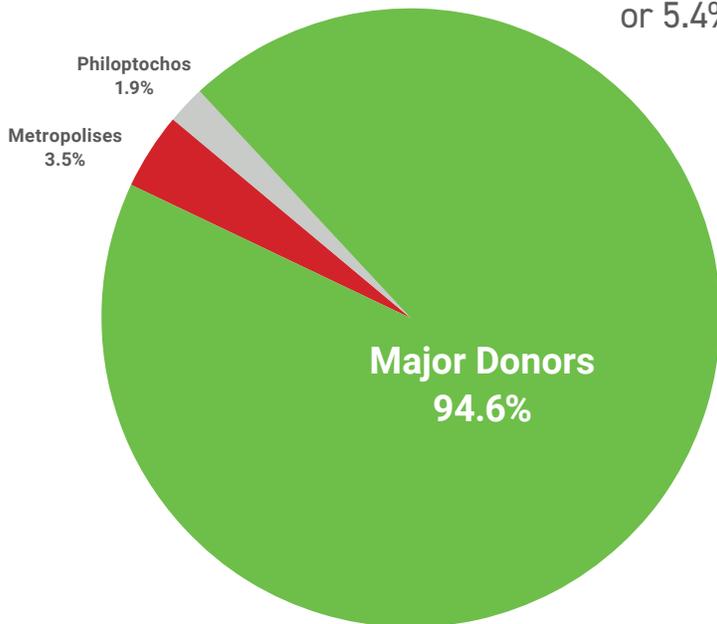
Thanks to the generous gift of \$600,000 of **STEVE AND FROSENE ZEIS**, the Endowment Fund has been established. We thank them for their beneficence and look forward to others joining them.

## METROPOLIS GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN REPORT

Following a presentation to a recent meeting of the Holy Eparchial Synod by the Friends of St. Nicholas, at the request of the Synod (voiced by Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey), we are presenting a detailed report on the Metropolis, Parish, and Philoptochos fundraising efforts to date (Philoptochos as of 2017 only). The report is attached in the email which contains this Update.

**The charts below tell the story and demonstrate how enormously grateful we should be to the major donors whose extraordinary generosity has made the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas possible.**

Out of \$86.2 Million raised,  
 the Metropolises, Parishes, and National Philoptochos Chapters,  
 have donated \$4,780,302,  
 or 5.4% of the total.



See this attachment in the email.

