



# ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE MONTHLY UPDATE

**JUNE  
2020**

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

## ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

My Beloved Brothers  
and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful to have another opportunity to reach out to you, the supporters and enthusiasts of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine. I pray that through this time of the global pandemic, that you and your loved ones have remained healthy and safe, because there has been tremendous loss of life and sickness in this difficult time.



Like the tragedy of 9/11, the COVID-19 crisis has severely impacted the world, causing loss of life and livelihood. And our Saint Nicholas Shrine has suffered as well, from further delays. But the good news, as you will see from the report from Dennis Mehiel and Michael Psaros, the co-chairs of "The Friends of St. Nicholas," is that the work continues. Thanks to the unparalleled leadership and generosity of the Alex G. Spanos Family, and the extraordinary efforts of the founders of the *FAITH* Endowment, Leadership 100, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese Father Alexander Karloutsos, and a few exceptionally generous donors, all costs associated with restarting the work have been covered, and we are well on our way to the complete funding of the cost of construction.

When you compare where we are today – even with the pandemic – to where we were a year ago before my election as Archbishop, it is the difference between death and Resurrection. I am deeply grateful to all those who have rescued the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center, and in so doing, have rescued the reputation and dignity of our Archdiocese.

Now, we are pressing forward, as Saint Paul says in the Second Letter to Timothy (4:7). Up until now, the good fight has been fought, not always by the many, but always by the few. We have kept faith with the donors, with the builders, and most importantly, with those who lost their lives that fateful day and with their families. Indeed, we have kept faith with Saint Nicholas himself, and

with the community and the church dedicated to his holy name. And now is the moment to run more eagerly this last part of the course. It is time to cross the finish line!

We are so close, my beloved friends, and we cannot lose the prize even though the hour is late. We may arrive at the opening of our Church at the Eleventh Hour, but as the Holy Chrysostom says, "the Lord gives rest to those of the Eleventh." And we shall not rest until our work is complete, and by the Grace of God and the prayers of Saint Nicholas, who is a true Wonder-worker, we shall bring this sacred duty to fulfillment.

*Τὸ Ἀμερικανὸν Ἐκκλῆσιον*

## FRIENDS OF SAINT NICHOLAS

Dear Friends,

**W**e, the members of the "Friends of St. Nicholas, Inc." address all of you as "Friends," because it is through your prayerful support and donations that the Saint Nicholas National Shrines is becoming a reality.

As we are reopening from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we thought this would be a good time to give you all an update on how construction and fundraising has proceeded these past few months. We know that everyone has had their attention elsewhere, but we also want you to know that the project has been continuing.

We had planned for an April 2nd commencement of construction at the site, but this was interrupted along with everything else in our lives. However, working with the Port Authority, we do expect that within this month of June, we will begin afresh at Ground Zero. It should be noted that in January of this year, the Friends of St. Nicholas paid \$5.75 million to the subcontractor responsible for the exterior structure in January 2020. This was the necessary step that actually restarted construction that will appear soon at the site, as soon as governmental authorities give the go ahead.

All entitlement and permitting issues have been resolved favorably so that Skanska, the actual construction company with

whom the contract will be signed this June, can begin as soon as the crisis has abated. In the meantime, the Port Authority has installed the construction barricades around the Church and removed all remaining materials from the interior of the Church (see photo).

It is important to note that construction has continued, albeit under extraordinary conditions, in Austria where the specialized construction of the building envelope that will allow the Church to glow in the evenings is taking place (see photos on page 3).

If you are thinking that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the schedule for completion, then you would be right, but not by as much as you might think. As per the exhortation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, we are still aiming for an "Opening of the Doors" on September 11, 2021, even if there are still some unfinished interior spaces. Such incomplete elements would be minor and would be finished by the Feast of Saint Nicholas, December 6, 2021. The project budget stand unchanged (below), but the

fundraising activity has been exceptional.

From January 1st of this year, over \$25m has been collected and \$19M pledged. This amazing commitment by the community assures that the Shrine will be completed.

### 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>
<b>Grand Total Construction Cost Phase I &amp; II .....</b>	<b>\$82 Million</b>

We thank all of you for your ongoing devotion to this act of Faith and Resurrection of the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine at Ground Zero, and we look forward to welcoming you through its open doors.



Dennis Mehiel,  
Chairman



Michael Psaros,  
Vice-Chair of  
The Friends of St. Nicholas, Inc.

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### PHASE II - SINCE JANUARY 2020

Total Fundraising Goal.....	\$45 Million	Cash on Hand.....	\$19 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>\$1 Million</b>
Cash Received .....	\$25 Million		
Cash Spent .....	\$6 Million (\$5.750M to the curtain wall manufacturer)		



## The Construction of the Curtain Wall and Skylight

*Below, an image of the Skylight that will go into the Dome of the Shrine.  
The bottom four pictures depict the manufacturing of the Building Envelope  
currently underway in Austria.*

**WATCH**

*The Resurrection of  
New York's St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church*

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