



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE LIVING TESTIMONY CAMPAIGN

Renovation Project

Lexington, MA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Message from Fr. George
- Mission Statement
- Core Values
- Our Vision
- The Architect's Plan
- FAQs

“

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the
Lord” (Psalm 122:1)

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is a remarkable parish. No one at St. Nicholas comes to Church by obligation, or because they feel like they have to. You come because you want to. You are glad as you say to one another, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.” We see this joy and gladness when the Church remains full even into the wee hours of the morning after the Easter vigil, or when our Lenten services are attended with such consistent and complete commitment. We see this joy when our parish performs acts of generosity and charity, not by giving the minimum amount required or requested, but by giving double what was asked. And when it comes to our parish buildings, you paint doors, supply book shelves, repair the stairs, work in the kitchen, or fix the sound system, all on your own initiative and because you are glad to do it. Every parishioner in this wonderful parish works with the heart of a cheerful giver. We are now at a point in our parish life, however, when our physical plant needs more than a new light bulb and more than a new coat of paint. We need to complete a serious level of work, which will cost a serious amount of money. I have no doubt that the people of St. Nicholas will rise to this occasion. And I am certain that you will rise to the occasion, not out of some abstract sense of obligation, but from a deep sense of commitment to your beloved parish. Most important of all, you will work with the heart of a cheerful giver as you say, “I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Fr. George Parsenios

Fr. George Parsenios



CORE VALUES

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

St. Nicholas in Lexington is a loving, Christ-centered church that emphasizes worship, service, hospitality, and spiritual formation, reflecting the timeless Greek Orthodox Christian understanding that the Church is not merely a building, but the living Body of Christ.

WELCOMING

Our community works together to welcome all to worship, to pray, to serve others, and to learn our Orthodox faith. Our parish is a safe and welcoming environment where together we reflect, share, and work to strengthen each other and our community.

PHILANTHROPIC

Our thriving ministries and programs include adult and youth engagement, education, outreach and evangelization initiatives that serve parishioners, neighbors, those in need, and the Lexington community.

LOVING

Our parish is a spiritual family. Dedicated to Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, the protector of travelers, families, and those in need, we embody his spirit of generosity and compassion.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered community that welcomes all to worship, to pray, to serve others, and to learn our Orthodox faith.





BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The Living Testimony Campaign will renew our church and fellowship hall to meet today's needs while preparing St. Nicholas for future generations. Through thoughtful renovations, we will create safer, more accessible, and more welcoming spaces that strengthen worship, fellowship, education, outreach, and community life.

THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN, ST. NICHOLAS WILL

- ✝ **RENEW OUR PARISH HOME** with structural improvements, expanded storage, and enhanced accessibility to create a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- ✝ **ENHANCE WORSHIP** by expanding the altar and renovating the narthex to enrich our liturgical experience.
- ✝ **STRENGTHEN MINISTRIES** through fellowship hall renovations and improved classroom spaces that foster education, fellowship, and spiritual growth.
- ✝ **EXPAND OUTREACH** by investing in communication, evangelism, and adult and youth ministries that serve both our parish and the Lexington community.
- ✝ **PRESERVE OUR ORTHODOX FAITH** and heritage by creating spaces that inspire lifelong participation for generations to come.

OUR VISION

✝ MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church exists to share love, spread joy, instill hope, and live with purpose.

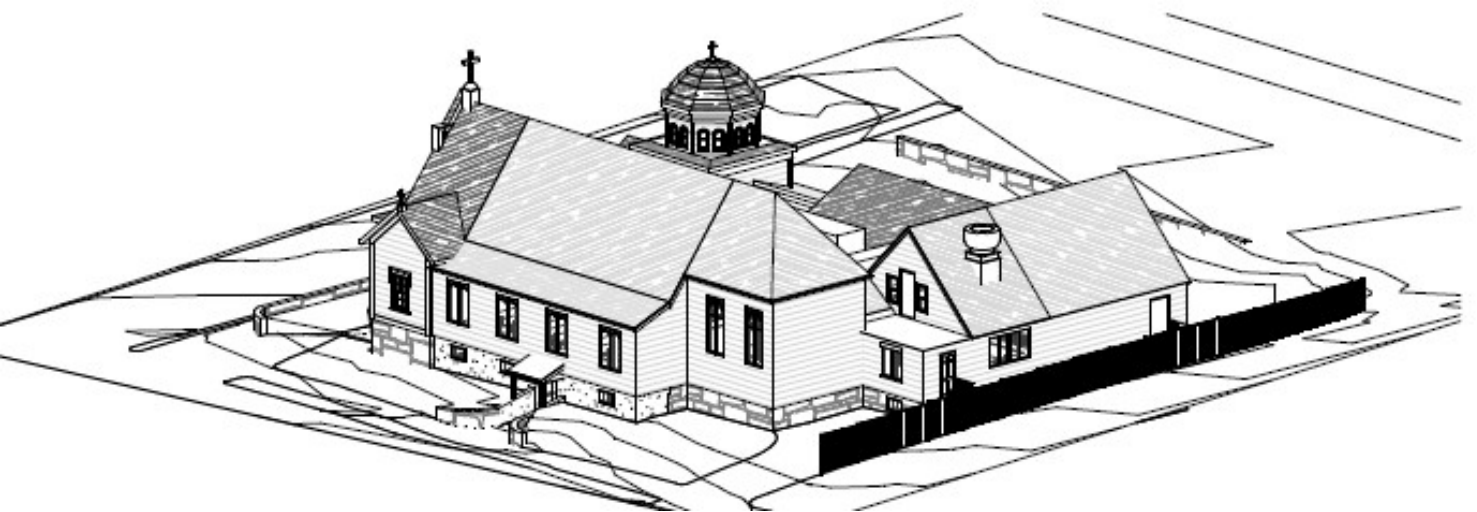
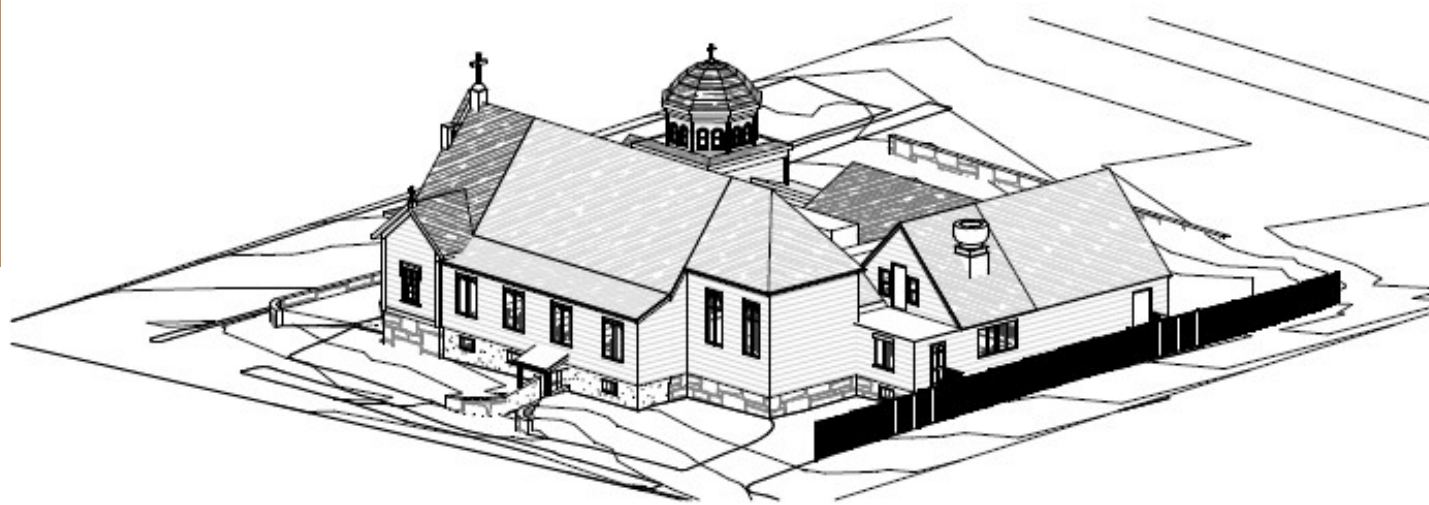
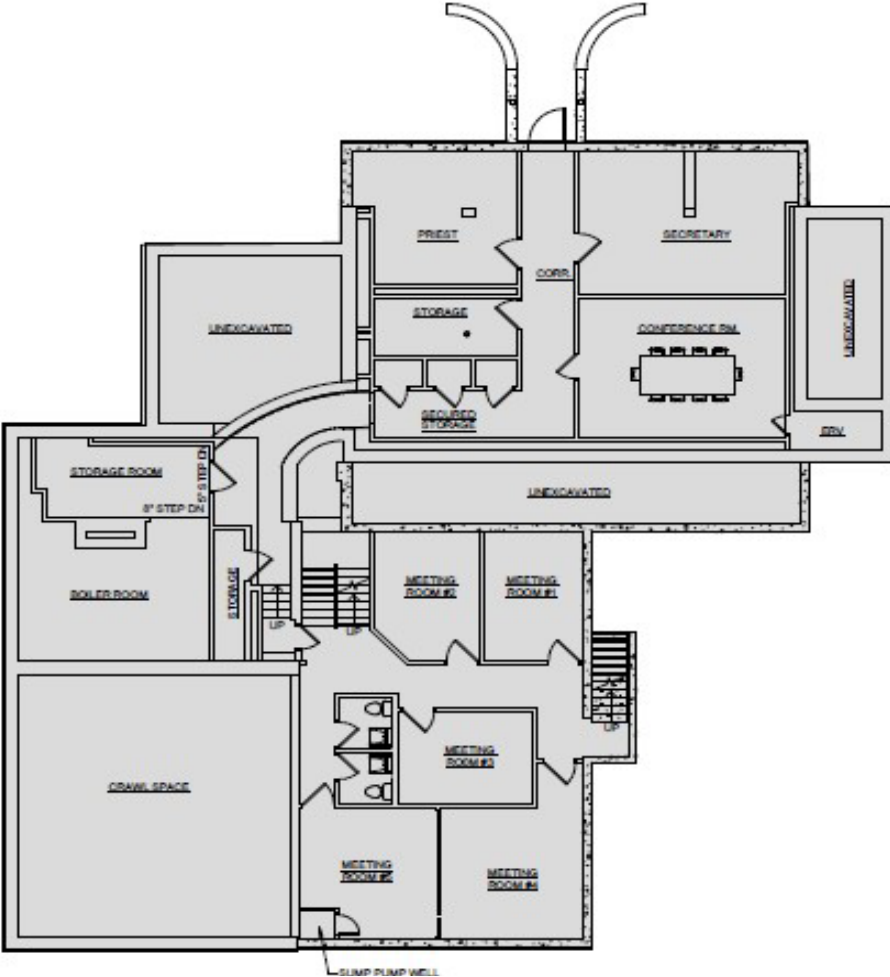
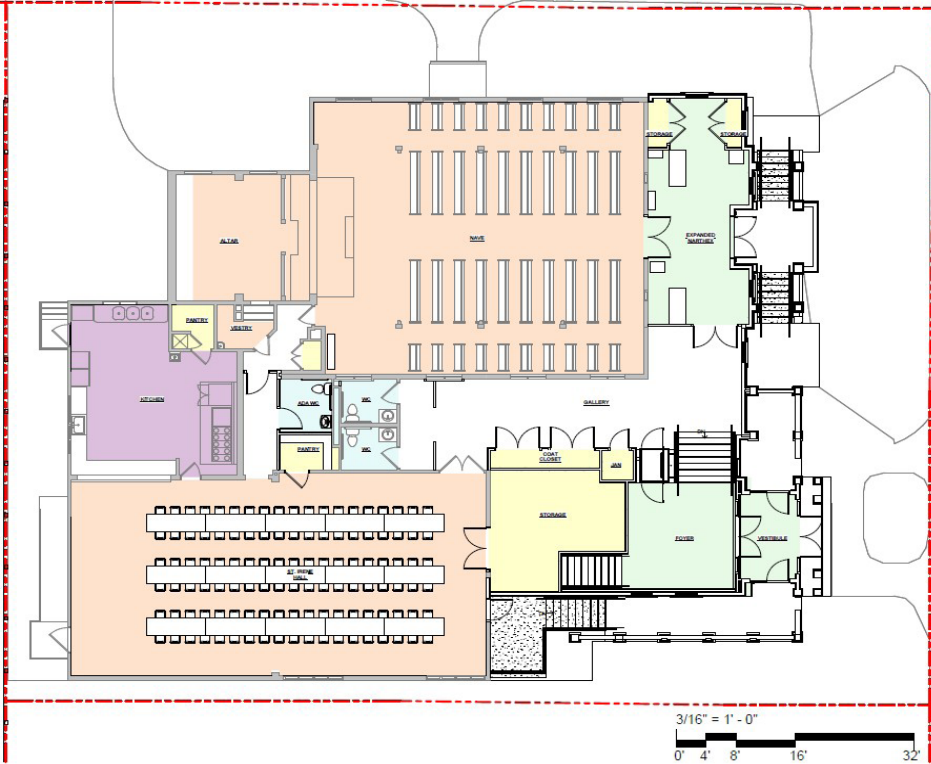
Nestled in historic Lexington, Massachusetts, St. Nicholas has long been a living testimony to the faith, sacrifice, and perseverance of generations of Orthodox Christians. As our parish continues to grow, we must renovate and expand our facilities to better support worship, outreach, education, and service to our parish family and the wider community.

✝ MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

A professional 50-Year Parish Survey and architectural assessment identified several important facility needs. The altar and narthex require structural, space, and storage improvements, while both the church and fellowship hall present accessibility challenges. As our parish continues to grow, additional ministry, education, and gathering spaces are needed to better support parish life.



THE ARCHITECTURAL PLAN



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why are these renovations necessary?

A: The parish recently completed a 50-year survey, a strategic plan, and an architectural assessment of our facilities. All these professionally implemented tools came to the same conclusion: the parish's current facilities no longer fully support our growing spiritual, educational, and community mission. Over the years, we have adequately maintained our facilities but some critical areas of the buildings are woefully out of date and in desperate need of renovation. In addition, entering the church and moving between the church and the fellowship hall has always been a challenge. This project will improve points of entry and walkways between the buildings. These renovations are important to continue the vitality of our parish's Liturgical services, ministries to our parishioners, and outreach to the community at-large.

Q: Why not tear down the current church and build something new from the ground up?

A: Tearing down and rebuilding entirely is prohibitively expensive and would sacrifice the identity, history, and continuity of St. Nicholas as an entity within historic Lexington. Our strategic plan, general assembly, and parish council all agree that renewal, and not replacement, is the best option to preserve the church as our spiritual home while modernizing it to meet current and future ministry needs.

Q: What is the amount of money that needs to be raised? When will we break ground?

A: Approximately \$4 million needs to be raised to complete all construction, infrastructure upgrades and to invest in our active ministries. We hope to break ground in July 2027. Our architects are working closely with parish council-appointed representatives to ensure timely start and completion of all activities.

Q: Who decided the scale and scope of these projects?

A: These projects are the culmination of years' worth of research and routine maintenance. Most recently, Parish Council and the "Community Transformation Team" have been working closely with Mangel Destefano Architects, who are specialists in church renovations, to develop plans for parish upgrades and renovations. Parishioners have volunteered hundreds of hours to ensure all work is cost-effective and will directly improve our facilities ensuring safety, compliance with regulations, and our ability to increase our engagement with parishioners and the community at-large.

Q: How is the project being funded?

A: The General Assembly in May 2025 approved a capital campaign to raise the funds needed for these renovations. To date, through the efforts of generous parishioners and fundraising by various parish organizations, we have committed over \$400,000 to this effort. The balance will be raised through a targeted campaign that will seek donations from supporters and stakeholders of the parish.

Q: What other benefits will the renovations bring?

A: We believe deeply that beyond addressing structural and accessibility needs, the renovations will strengthen nearly every aspect of parish life and ministry at St. Nicholas. Our parish Strategic Plan envisions that renewed facilities are just one aspect of a broader initiative to support our growing community through worship, stewardship, fellowship, education, and outreach.



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA 02420
(781) 862-6453
office@stnicholaslex.org
www.stnicholaslex.org

THE LIVING TESTIMONY CAMPAIGN.

**CONTINUING OUR LEGACY FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.**