

Cathedral Ceiling Repair Update #10, December 8

Repair Progress

In the last restoration update, we reported that new plaster had been installed in all areas but the one that had the cracked joist and that application of the skim coat plaster was underway. Now, all repair plastering and skim coat application are complete.

Also, in the last update, the painting has not started except for test painting for the color match. Now, nearly half of the ceiling is painted. Petrinis Painting has been staffing the job with 2 or 3 painters every day, allowing for quick progress.



Portions of new ceiling where the painting is complete.

Note the three-color pattern on the decorative detail.

The artistic detail throughout the ceiling requires slow-paced detail painting.

The full-room scaffolding that was erected allows multiple painters, sanders, patchers to be working at the same time



The painting should complete this month. However, there will still be a lot of work that must be done to bring the Cathedral back to normal. The scaffolding has to be disassembled and removed. All the protective enclosures and barriers need to be disassembled and removed. And finally, all surfaces need to be cleaned. We are not sure of the timetable for all of this work but hope that we will be performing the Divine Liturgy in the Sanctuary by late January.

Fundraising Efforts

Capital Campaign

The capital campaign was kicked off with an appeal letter to all parishioners. The initial response to this appeal has been great, with \$88,000 donated or pledged to date (Thank You!). The donor form for the ceiling restoration is attached. Please consider making your pledge and/or donation by yearend.

As a memento of the ceiling project, a construction board is available for all donors and project volunteers to sign including signatures of all of your family members. This board will be installed in a non-visible location on the new ceiling. It will act as a permanent connection between your family and your St. Nicholas Cathedral. Please sign this board at the St. Nicholas Bazaar this morning.

Also, for those who wish, engraved pavers can be installed in the existing circle in the parklet along Forbes Ave. Pavers are available at the \$1,250, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$25,000 level. A pledged donation can be paid over a two-year period.

Fundraising Events and Activities

A committee has met and generated a number of ideas for potential fundraising activities. These events will be planned and organized over the upcoming year. In the short term, the following events are scheduled, so save the dates.

- **Raise the Roof Glendi** – January 7 – a young adult oriented dance with a Greek band, mezethes, bar, and lots of Greek dancing.
- **Greek2Go** – January 21 - Resurrecting the event that got the Cathedral finances through the pandemic with on-line takeout orders.
- **Popcorn with a Prize** – popcorn to be sold at the St. Nicholas Bazaar with proceeds to go toward the ceiling restoration.
- **Manthya Educational Society Annual Vlahokerasiotiki Makaronada Dinner** – This year, all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Ceiling Restoration. In addition, the Society will match the proceeds donation, doubling the amount for the project.

The repair of the ceiling was a totally unanticipated problem. Though the repair costs are high, the St. Nicholas parish has devoted parishioners and resources to address the problem and have a Sanctuary that will provide us with another 100 years of worship services.

Cathedral Restoration Project
Donation and Pledge Form

Donor Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Total Amount Pledged _____

Payment Options

Paid in Full _____

Initial Payment _____ Your plan for additional payments _____

Donations can be by check or made on-line with credit card. From the St. Nicholas web site, www.stnickspgh.org, go to the "Giving" tab and click the "Donate" pull-down. This will transfer you to the on-line giving form. Select Ceiling Fund on the Fund pull down menu.

A construction board with signatures of all donors will be installed as part of the new ceiling. All donor family members can sign it. The board will be available at the church from mid-November through the end of December.

Engraved commemorative pavers are also available at the sizes below. These pavers will be added to the granite circle in our green space. Please indicate if you are interested in a paver and you will be provided with additional information.

____ 8" x 4" Paver at \$1,250

____ 8" x 8" Paver at \$2,500

____ 12" x 12" Granite at \$5,000 (pieces that make up the center cross)

____ 42" x 15" Exterior Granite Ring at \$25,000 (pieces on either side of the Bible verse)