

Cathedral Ceiling Repair Update #11, December 29

Fundraising Efforts

The goal for the ceiling fundraising effort is to raise \$200,000. Raising that amount of money seems like a daunting task. However, thanks to you, we are well along the way toward realizing our goal. To raise the \$200,000, we will be running both a capital campaign and a series of fundraising events. The events will be for both within our community and for the general public.

Capital Campaign

The capital campaign was kicked off with an appeal letter to all parishioners. The response to this letter has been great, with \$114,000 donated or pledged to date (Thank You!). The donor form for the ceiling restoration is attached if you would like to contribute or make a pledge.

As a memento of the ceiling project, a construction board was available for all donors and project volunteers to sign including signatures of your family members. **This weekend is the last chance to sign the board because it will be installed on January 3rd.** The scaffolding starts to be torn down on January 3rd. It will be installed in a non-visible location on the new ceiling and act as a permanent connection between your family and your St. Nicholas Cathedral.



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. To date, 23 granite blocks and pavers have been spoken for.

Fundraising Events and Activities

There are three major events coming up in the next 2 months, so save the dates. The proceeds from these events will go toward funding the Ceiling Restoration.

- **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.
- **Manthyrea Educational Society Annual Vlahokerasiotiki Makaronada Dinner / Dance** – 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.

Repair Progress

We have made excellent progress over the past several weeks. On December 27, the painting was completed! This effort included painting several patches of the walls. These wall areas were included in the project because they had peeling paint and were easily accessible with the scaffolding in place. The pictures below show both the amount of detail involved in the painting and the quality of the finished product.



Sample of plaster detail in the ceiling and the multi-color paint scheme



Sample of new surface finish. The forward portion of this picture is the section the fell onto the pews and aisle

As the painting was completing, the cleanup and the removal of protective coatings has started. The plastic barrier protecting the stained-glass windows and closing off the altar has been removed. The area on top of the scaffolding has been cleaned and the flooring over the scaffolding has been removed.



Another sample of new surface finish and paint. This portion of ceiling that was on the verge of falling and where the failed ceiling beam was located. A large hole was cut out for the repair.

Our major contractors, NIKO Contracting and Patrinos Painting, gave us excellent response times, in that whenever their services were needed, they were there the next day. We did not have the wait times that typically extend a project schedule.

What Is Left to Complete

Disassembly and removal of the scaffold is scheduled to start on January 3. Then, during the following week, the protective enclosures around the pulpit, altar screen and Bishop Throne will be disassembled and removed, and the pews uncovered. Finally, there will be a thorough cleaning of the Sanctuary. It looks like we will be having Divine Liturgy in our Sanctuary in the middle of January!

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 Building Fund and indicate on the memo line that the donation is for the ceiling project.

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)