

Seeking and understanding your Religious Heritage

Why it has endured 2000 years

& what you can do to help...

“BUILD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME”



**DEDICATION OR
SPONSORING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
BELL TOWER**

Bell Tower- three- tiered Bell Tower \$100,000.00

(Donors will have individual recognition both upstairs and downstairs on interior walls of Bell Tower)

Bell Tower Elevator Handicap Accessible \$150,000.00

(Donor will have individual recognition outside elevator as well as inside elevator)

Bell Large \$ 14,000.00

Bell Medium \$ 9,000.00

Bell Small \$ 6,000.00

(Donors will have their names engraved on bells.)

The three bells will be made in Romania. In order to create a quality bell with a pleasant and harmonious sound the bells are three different sizes of the finest materials imported from Germany. The automation system is included in the price which is imported from Belgium. The tones will be preset and played with a simple push of a button.



“Building for Generations to Come”

Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Greek Orthodox Church

is being built according to the traditions of an authentic Basilica with a Byzantine Dome. It will allow visitors to connect with a civilization that dates back over a thousand years. It will serve as a beautiful place of worship, a landmark and a storm shelter in the Tampa Bay area.

It will serve as a beacon of hope and a revered

piece of our Orthodox heritage for centuries to come. As such, the church requires traditional marble and wood furnishings. Everyone is invited to contribute whatever they are able towards such articles of the church, to honor their family in this great undertaking or to honor and perpetuate the name of a loved one, living or deceased.

FURNISHINGS DONATION FORM

Holy Altar

The **altar** is the area at the east end of a church, usually behind an iconostasis (altar screen). It symbolizes Paradise.

❖ Holy Altar Table (marble, hand-carved)

\$25,000.00

The entire church building is centered around the **Altar Table**, located in the center of the altar as one enters through the Royal Doors in the iconostasis. This table is often referred to as the Holy Table, and has multiple symbolic meanings. It is the symbolic and mystical presence of the heavenly throne and table of the Kingdom of God; of Christ the Word, the Lamb and the King of ever-lasting life; of God’s glorified dominion over all of creation. It represents the Throne of God because through the sacraments celebrated upon this altar, God’s saving and sanctifying grace is bestowed upon all people. It is also Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified, because it is upon this altar that we re-enact the Passion of our Lord and Savior. Finally, it represents the Tomb of Christ because it is through Christ’s death that eternal life was granted to all people. This final representation is highlighted in the resurrection Matins service celebrated every Sunday because it is from the right or southern side of the altar table that the morning Gospel is proclaimed, symbolizing the angel announcing the risen Christ to the Myrrh bearers. Our Altar Table will be fashioned of hand-carved marble from Greece.



Holy Prothesis (marble, hand-carved) \$8,000.00

The **Proskomedion** (from the Greek προσκομιδή, "offering"), sometimes referred to as *prothesis* (from the Greek πρόθεσις, "setting forth") or *proskomide*, is the **Office of Oblation** celebrated by the priest prior to the Divine Liturgy during which the bread and wine are prepared for the Eucharist. The Proskomedion is a prerequisite for the Divine Liturgy. The priest conducts the Office of Oblation behind

the Iconostasis at the **Table of oblation** or **Table of Preparation** that is located to the left of the Altar Table. Proskomedion, when translated to English, means "preparation." The Prothesis (Table of Oblation) represents the cave of Bethlehem where our Lord and Savior was born.

❖ Holy Diakonicon (marble, hand-carved)

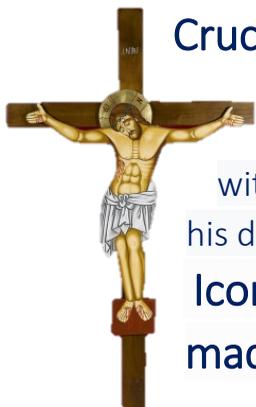
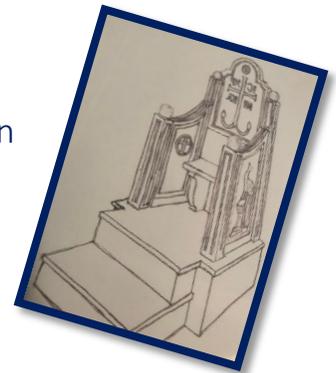
\$8,000.00

The **Diaconicon** (Greek: διακονικόν) is the name given to a chamber on the south side of the central apse of the church where the vestments, books, etc., that are used in the Divine Services of the church are kept. The diaconicon contains the *thalassidion* (piscina), a sink that drains into an honorable place where liquids such as the water used to wash holy things may be poured, and where the clergy may wash their hands before serving the Divine Liturgy. The diaconicon will usually have cabinets or drawers where the vestments and church hangings (antependia) may be safely stored. Reserved charcoal, incense, towels and other necessary items are also stored here.

The diaconicon also serves as a place for heating the *zeon* (small vessel containing boiling water that is poured into the chalice before Holy Communion).

❖ Synthronon (marble, hand-carved) \$17,000.00

The **Synthronon** is a structure in the apse at the back of the altar of an Orthodox Christian church that combines the bishop's throne/cathedra and seats for the clergy. During the Trisagion, the clergy assembles at the synthronon. The bishop's cathedra is centered in the set of chairs or tiered benches for the clergy. The synthronon came into use in the fourth century.



Crucifixion & Cross (wood, hand-carved)

\$2,000.00

The Greek Orthodox church makes a huge contribution toward a holistic and integrated understanding of the role of both Cross and Resurrection. A cross with a representation of Jesus' body hanging from it emphasizes Christ's sacrifice—his death by crucifixion. This is placed in the Holy Altar.

Icon of Body of Christ-

made by hand of iconographer

\$9,000.00

Nave

❖ Iconostasis (Altar Screen) (marble, hand-carved)

\$105,000.00

In Eastern Christianity an **Iconostasis** (plural: **iconostases**) is a wall of icons and religious paintings, separating the nave from the sanctuary in a church. The Iconostasis does not really "separate" the nave from the Holy of Holies; rather, it brings them together. The Iconostasis is the link between heaven (the Holy of Holies) and the nave (The Holy Place). Its most practical function is to provide a place to display the principle icons of our Savior, of Panaghia, of Saint John the Baptist, the archangels, the patron saint(s) of the chapel, and so forth. Symbolically, it



also serves as a gate to Paradise, providing worshippers with a glimpse of the altar (which symbolizes Paradise). The word comes from the Greek εἰκονοστάσι(-ον) (*eikonostási(-on)*, still in common use in Greece and Cyprus), which means "icon stand". Therefore, the personages on the icons upon the iconostasis guide us into heaven, and therefore the Iconostasis connects not separates. The icons upon the iconostasis also are windows and bridges into heaven.

Therefore, in a sense the iconostasis represents Christ, who is the connection, the door, between both realms.

❖ Hand Carved Altar Doors (wood, hand-carved)

\$12,000.00

The iconostasis typically has three openings or sets of altar doors: the *Beautiful Gates* or *Holy Doors* in the center, and the North and South Doors to either side. The Beautiful Gates are sometimes called the *Royal Doors*, but that name more properly belongs to the central doors connecting the narthex, or porch, to the nave. They remain shut whenever a service is not being held. Modern custom as to when they should be opened during services varies depending upon jurisdiction and local custom. The North and South Doors are often called *Deacons' Doors* because the deacons use them frequently. Icons of sainted deacons are often depicted on these doors. Alternatively, they may be called *Angels' Doors*, and Archangels Michael and Gabriel are often depicted there. The South Door is typically the "entrance" door, and Michael is depicted there because he is the "Defender"; the North Door is the "exit", and Gabriel is depicted here because he is the "Messenger" of God. These doors may also be casually referred to as the "side doors".

❖ Icon Vigil Lamps



8 Individual lights
Center 5 lights

\$1200.00 each
\$6100.00

Hanging lamps are the most common, consisting of a wall mounted bracket with three chains attached to a holder that holds the glass bowl containing the oil. The metal ware is generally plated in silver or gold. The hanging lamp is hung from a bracket mounted over an icon so that the lamp is in front of the lower half of the icon. Their purpose is multifold: to remind us of that light by which Christ illumines our souls, to remind us of the radiant character of the saint before whose icon we light the vigil lamp, so that this

light would rouse us to selflessness, and in order to remind us that before anything else the Creator of the world created light, and after that everything else in order.

❖ 80 - Individual wooden hand-carved chairs ---- \$250.00/each

❖ 10 - Bench/wooden hand-carved chairs ---- - - \$650.00/each

❖ 40 - Stasidia (high-rise wooden hand-carved pews against the walls/church; "stalls") ----

\$750.00/each @40 units



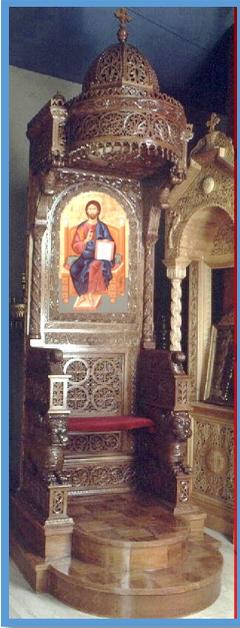
Stasidia are historical ecclesiastical furniture of very specific design and



construction. Their design is unique and appears only in the Orthodox Church. The aim of this furniture construction is more to facilitate and support the people standing during the long liturgies taking place in the church. They are essential for supporting especially the elderly or frail during worship or prayer. Just so, we are facilitating the construction of hand-carved chairs of analogous form that offer rest and comfort to worshippers who desire to sit

during services or prayer. Just so, special individualized armchairs are also made of several wood species and constructed in such a way that the elderly people are supported by the backrest and arms of the furniture.

"Lord, Lord, look down from Heaven and behold and visit this vineyard, and establish that which your right hand has planted."



❖ **Hierarchical Throne (Wood hand-carved)**

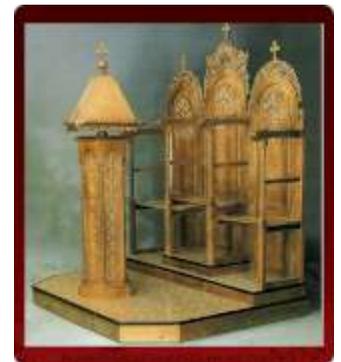
\$12,000.00

The **Bishop's Throne** embodies our spiritual leader's teaching authority and his apostolicity in the church. Built to long-established traditional dimensions, every detail of this throne carries a great symbolic significance, including carving depicting as his Panaghia, his cross, his staffs. The Bishop can't be at every church at every service simultaneously; it is thus one of the principle ways in which the worshippers are reminded of his episcopal authority in and devotion to the church; it is a powerful symbol through which we recognize his episcopal mission.

❖ **2 Psaltiria with 3 Stasidia each (wood, hand-carved)**

\$8,000.00

The **Psaltiri** (plural Psaltiria) are a type of ecclesiastical furniture, embellished with rich carvings and unique designs that are structured with both beauty and functionality in mind, as this is where holy hymn and prayer books are propped up and stored. They are where our Psaltes stand or sit to chant and pray during services; to enable the Psaltes to rest, Psaltiria are typically paired with Stasidia.



❖ **Reliquary House for Holy Relics of Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene, Thermi, Lesvos**

\$43,000.00



The **Reliquary** will be made out of hand carved marble from Greece which will provide a very special means of protecting and displaying relics of our Patron Saints.

The use of reliquaries became an important part of Christian practices from at least the 4th century.

"There is nothing more keen to the mysteries ("sacraments") of Christ than the martyrs, since they have body, spirit, manner of death, and all other things in common with Christ. He was with them when they lived, and after they died He did not leave their dead bodies. He is so united to their souls that he is somehow present and mingled even with this

mute dust. So, if it is possible to find the savior and to contain him in any visible thing, it would be in these bones...these bones are a true temple of God and an altar."



Narthex

The **narthex** is an entrance area to a church, located at the western end of the nave. At the opposite (eastern) end of the nave is the altar. The narthex may sometime consists of two parts, an **exonarthex** (outer narthex) that forms the outer entrance to the building and parallel to it another part called the **esonarthex** (inner narthex) that opens into the nave.

❖ **Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Icon Stand (Proskintari) \$8,000.00**

Beautifully hand-carved wood and of intricate design with symbolic references, depicting the icons of our patron saints, for their worship or their transfer for litany.

❖ **2 Walled Icon Stands (Proskinitari Toixou) \$8,000.00**

Beautifully hand-carved wood and of intricate design with symbolic references, depicting sacred icons, especially of the sanctified saints of the temple, whom the worshippers venerate when entering the church.

❖ **Candle Stand \$9,500.00**

When you enter church in the *narthex*, you may light a candle and the candle stand, say a brief prayer, and place it among the icon; we light candles before the Icons as a sign of our faith and hope in God's help that is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers. The candle is also a symbol of our burning and grateful love for God, as well as a metaphor for the soul: as the candle radiates and dissolves the darkness, the soul must also radiate from spiritual melancholy so that, according to the Lord's word, *"so I shine forth your light before men, like seeing good works and glorifying the Father you in the heavens."*

❖ **Aghiasma Table \$1,700.00**

Holy water, or Agiasma is water that has been blessed by a priest for use in symbolic rituals of purification. Holy Water is used in the blessing of nearly everything which the Church wishes to sanctify.

Whatever option you choose must be right for you and your family. No contribution is too small as we must all work together to continue to bear witness to our faith and heritage in Palm Harbor, Tampa Bay.

Naming Rights Opportunity

There are a number of opportunities to honor or memorialize loved ones while making a larger financial commitment to a project. Every one of us might be moved differently if proper opportunity presents itself. Perhaps naming the bell tower for your children or memorializing your parents by becoming a sponsor.



**Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene
Greek Orthodox Church**

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