

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2018-2020**



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND NATIONAL SHRINE

Chairs: Jennifer Constantin and Arlene Siavelis Kehl

August 22, 2020

Let us Do Our Part to Make Saint Nicholas A Reality

As His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros stated in his enthronement address, “It is our duty and our responsibility as Orthodox Christians – but also our obligation and commitment to God and His people – to complete and open the doors of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine” by September 11, 2021. In his keynote address at the Archdiocesan Council Meeting in October 2019 in New York City, His Eminence explains that “Saint Nicholas is a vision of what is best in all people of faith and religious conviction: Love of God and love of neighbor, mutual understanding, and reciprocal respect”. With this most important directive from our Archbishop, we too must recommit ourselves to our Philoptochos fundraising initiative for the construction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center (SNNS), which has been well underway for over five years.

How fortunate we were that on Western Easter, Sunday, April 12, 2020, the renowned CBS news program, 60 Minutes, showcased the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center. In his introduction to the story, 60 Minutes journalist Scott Pelley said, “For Easter, we visit a fortress against time, where art is created to heal one of America’s greatest wounds. It is the resurrection of the only House of Worship on 9/11.”

Now with Dennis Mehiel, Chairman, and Michael Psaros, Vice-Chair, at the helm of a new structure, namely “The Friends of St. Nicholas, Inc.”, an independent non-profit based on accountability and transparency, and having responsibility for the construction and completion of the Shrine, we are assured that SNNS will become a reality in 2021. As of their June 2020 Monthly Update, we share the good news that fundraising activity has been exceptional, and construction of the building envelope has continued in Austria and general construction is recommencing at the site at Ground Zero.

As of Monday, July 13, 2020, Philoptochos stewards, chapters and metropolises throughout the nation have collectively raised \$1,700,904.81 toward the SNNS, which will serve as a beacon of hope and a declaration of our Greek ideals and Orthodox Christian faith to the world. Of the funds raised, as of Thursday, January 30, 2020, we have given a total of \$1,693,400 toward the rebuilding effort. We have \$306,600 left to fulfill our \$2.0 million commitment. We thank the Metropolis of Chicago, the Metropolis of New Jersey, and the Metropolis of San Francisco for fulfilling their respective goals.

Let us Do Our Part to Make Saint Nicholas A Reality (continued)

Our VISION for the remaining five remaining Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan District to reach their initiative goals are as follows:

1. Determine which chapters in your Metropolis have not yet embraced the initiative.
2. Communicate with those chapters by having Metropolis or Direct Archdiocesan Board Members, along with National Board Members, contact the chapter Presidents or Liaisons.
3. Assist the chapters to provide access to information about SNNS.
4. Promote the initiative by suggesting individual and chapter appropriate fundraisers.
5. Infuse the chapters with information, both inspirational and logistical, for increased confidence in promoting the initiative.
6. Reach out to us, Jennifer, and Arlene, for help and support to ensure the success of our Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative in your Metropolis. Direct Archdiocesan District, Boston, and Pittsburgh should strategize with Jennifer; and Atlanta, Denver, and Detroit should strategize with Arlene. With SMART strategic planning, whereby your plans are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Related, your objectives and goals can be met.

For further information and resources, visit

www.philoptochos.org/ministryoutreach/fundraisinginitiatives/saintnicholasgreekorthodoxchurch&nationalshrine. To be part of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at The World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please remind everyone to donate fundraising proceeds to your local Philoptochos Chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.

Our heartfelt thanks to you, our fellow Philoptochos stewards, for support of this once in a lifetime opportunity to help make SNNS a reality and declare our Greek ideals and Orthodox Christian faith to our fellow Americans and visitors from around the world.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Initiative Collections Report

<u>METROPOLIS</u>	INITIATIVE GOAL	TOTAL TO DATE	% of GOAL	AMOUNT LEFT TO RAISE
Atlanta	\$ 320,400.00	\$ 123,161.00	38%	\$ 197,239.00
Boston	\$ 201,150.00	\$ 31,040.00	15%	\$ 170,110.00
Chicago	\$ 308,610.00	\$ 308,610.00	100%	COMPLETED
DAD	\$ 322,560.00	\$ 247,524.00	77%	\$ 75,036.00
Denver	\$ 145,890.00	\$ 93,302.52	64%	\$ 52,587.48
Detroit	\$ 177,660.00	\$ 134,957.00	76%	\$ 42,703.00
New Jersey	\$ 306,810.00	\$ 310,235.45	101%	COMPLETED
Pittsburgh	\$ 176,760.00	\$ 91,714.84	52%	\$ 85,045.16
San Francisco	\$ 360,360.00	\$ 360,360.00	100%	COMPLETED
as of 07/13/2020	Total Donations to Saint Nicholas Fund to Date	\$ 1,693,400.00	Balance Philoptochos Account	\$ 7,683.71