

A SACRED SPACE...

IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE...



## ST. JOHN THE DIVINE SANCTUARY RENOVATION CAMPAIGN

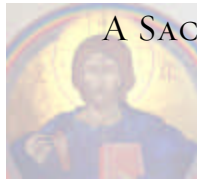
Dear Friends of St John,

Enclosed please find a package, which has been sent out to our parishioners announcing the Sanctuary Renovation project of St. John, the Divine Greek Orthodox Church.

We would appreciate you reviewing the materials and considering adding your name to those contributing to the renovation and beautification of our church.

Thank you,

Sanctuary Renovation Campaign Committee



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## ST. JOHN THE DIVINE SANCTUARY RENOVATION CAMPAIGN

***“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”***

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church has just completed the most comprehensive renovation project since the Church was purchased in the early 1950's. Not since our parents and grandparents made the ultimate commitment to buy, remodel and preserve our current building, has such a major project been undertaken. Their effort was not realized by their weekly contributions, but rather their bold commitment over and above their normal level of stewardship. This was done while buying homes, starting business or saving to educate their children. It was difficult, but in so doing instilled in their children a deep rooted work ethic and sense of commitment to their faith and the church of St John.

St. John was tired and cried out for new life. It was time for us to **take up our cross** and breath new life into God's House to promote and perpetuate the faith. It is our turn to honor sacrifices made by our forefathers. It is our turn to set the example for the children of St. John the Divine and future generations. It is our turn to sacrifice. It is our turn to leave our legacy.

On September 7, 2008, the General Assembly of St. John voted to proceed with a major renovation project that would reinvest \$398,000 into the church. Our goal is to pay for this renovation in five (5) years. Construction and renovation is now complete and aside from new feast day icons and liturgical appointments.

You will find enclosed a brochure, "A Sacred Space... is a Beautiful Place" which illustrates the new interior of St. John's, additionally, a sample stewardship board and commitment form. While a five year pledge program is planned, as much immediate giving as possible will keep bank payments and interest within our goals. All fulfilled pledges will be recognized by a prominent honor board and giving can be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Cash;
2. Borrow...For those interested, Main Street Bank has agreed to offer to a donor of St John, a fixed interest loan rate of 5.99% for five (5) years. This will enable the donor to complete their entire pledge immediately and receive an income tax deduction. Additionally, and most important, this will reduce the amount that is borrowed by St. John thereby saving interest costs;
3. Stock... If you own stock that has had appreciation and is sold by you, the gain would be subject to capitol gain taxation. Giving the stock to St. John would eliminate any income taxation and you receive a deduction for the value of the stock...this is a double win for you;
4. Property...Contribute automobiles or real estate, etc.;
5. Bequest by will;
6. Life Insurance naming St. John as the beneficiary. While life insurance is an inexpensive way to give large sums of money to a church, it is not the most advantageous method of providing money for immediate use.

### Gift Levels

+Benefactor Gift	\$ 40,000	Diamond Gift	\$ 15,000	Bronze Gift	\$ 2,000
*Memorial Gift	\$ 30,000	Gold Gift	\$ 10,000	Patron Gift	\$ 1,000
Platinum Gift	\$ 25,000	Silver Gift	\$ 5,000	Loyalty Gift	\$ 500

+ A Bronze Plaque are available for gifts in this category

\* Icons and Liturgical Appointments are available for gifts in this category

There are numerous ways to give to this most worthy project. Each of us must make our commitment to see this project succeed. Individually no one can do it, collectively we can see this beautiful renovation debt diminished. Now is the time to reach into your heart and into your soul. Now is the time for you to make your sacrifice for St. John. May God guide you, as you consider all of the options outlined above.

With love in Christ,

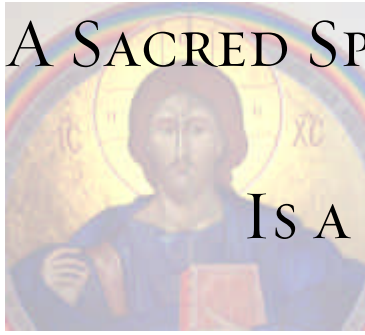
### Campaign Committee

Fr. Spiro Kehayes  
Frank Joanou

John Karras, Campaign Chairman  
Paul Joanou      George Cosmides

Elizabeth Kademenos, Council President  
Gus Kayafas

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ST. JOHN THE DIVINE SANCTUARY RENOVATION CAMPAIGN  
John Karras Campaign Chairman

A TIME TO KEEP AND A TIME TO BUILD-UP...

The congregation of St. John in Wheeling is approaching 100 years of life and is the oldest Greek Orthodox parish in the state of West Virginia. Our heritage is unique and our faith is a priceless measure. For many years our community has dreamed of worshipping in a more beautiful space; however, many factors have delayed this goal. Declining and elderly populations, a failed merger and slow economic times are the main impediments. It has been said “If you fail to plan for the future your future plan will fail” and through the vision of Fr. Spiro Kehayes and the parish council, a decision to plan for the future was made and aside from a few liturgical appointments and icons, the renovation project is now complete.

***Our mission is to perpetuate the Orthodox faith and culture  
for our generation and to those who follow.***

A LITTLE HISTORY....

The building that has provided a home for the community of St. John is located at 2215 Chapline Street. Originally it was constructed as a furniture store and was adapted to serve the growing community in 1951. Improvements included a new façade, church offices, Sunday school, Greek language rooms and the Hellenic Center. The sanctuary was fitted into the first floor space and was limited to a homemade iconostasis, salvaged bank lobby light fixtures and icon cabinets that had traveled from the previous church locations that the congregation used prior to making the current building their home. The only other beautification efforts included a new Pandocrator ( Christ ) and Platitera ( Virgin Mary ) icons and through the years, all other surfaces have received multiple layers of off-white paint. Due to the church offices to the south and a private residence to the north, there were no windows in the sanctuary. Finally, in 1993 the adjacent building was acquired and a single window was donated, thus allowing daylight into the church for the first time in over 50 years! This now has opened up the potential for more renovations and beautification.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The religious focus of the Orthodox Church is to create a Heaven on earth experience for the worshipper involving all the senses. An Orthodox church should be filled with visual reminders of the cosmos and our place within it. The Pandocrator watches over his vineyard from the highest point followed by the prophets who foretold his coming. The Platitera behind the altar is the human link between Heaven and earth as the God bearer. The people fill the Nave or “ship” of the church within its pews. Further inspiration comes from holy icons or “windows into Heaven” of Saints who serve as examples of faith and who pray with us during the liturgy. Biblical scenes from the life of Christ also can be depicted on the walls or icons. Rich colors, sparkling appointments and durable finishes of marble and stone typically are used to represent the majestic, royal and timeless nature of the house of God.

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
2215 CHAPLINE STREET – WHEELING, WV 26003  
304 233-0757 - WWW.STJOHNGOCHURCH.ORG

## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

A beautification committee was formed in 2005 to study how the sanctuary of St John could be enhanced in order to be consistent with the traditions of the Orthodox church. The committee was composed of members of the congregation which included Fr. Spiro Kehayes, an art teacher, interior designer, artist, CPA/accountant and an architect. The results were fruitful and approval by the general congregation was granted to proceed with the much needed repairs, restoration and remodeling. Three simple concepts were emphasized in all aspects of the beautification.

1. **REPAIR:** Religious elements such as icons, icon screen and furnishings were repaired or refinished to bring back the original colors, texture or finish where possible.
2. **MODERNIZE:** Antiquated heating and cooling systems, exposed electrical wiring, plumbing and handicap accessible barriers were changed to comply with building code requirements.
3. **UPGRADE:** Deteriorated walls, flooring and ceilings were replaced with more durable materials indicative of warmth, beauty and permanence. Improved decorative and concealed lighting further enhance the worship experience which respond to both festive and somber liturgical needs.

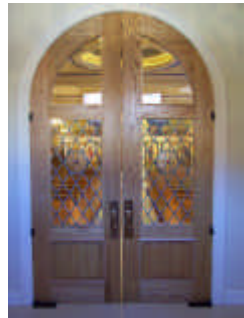
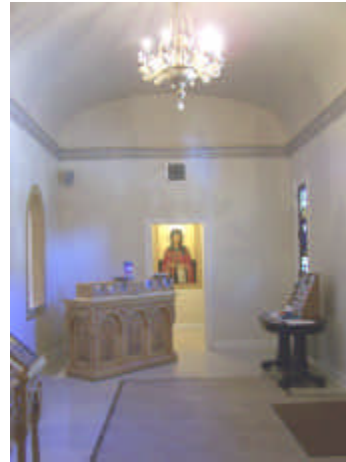


### NEW SANCTUARY

ARCHITECT – KAYAFAS ARCHITECTS

LITURGICAL CONSULTANT – ROHN & ASSOCIATES

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## A FUND FOR THE FUTURE:

Spanning the years, problems with the roof, heating, cooling systems, elevator, electrical and plumbing systems necessitated repairs or replacement and overtaxed the annual operating budget. While deterioration is a natural process that occurs with age, it is essential that the beauty of our sanctuary be maintained and held as a priority for appropriate worship. The need for a Building Conservation Fund ( **BCF**) thus was created and continues to provide funds for ongoing maintenance and upkeep.

Our goal is for the new established Sanctuary Renovation Fund (**SRF**) to provide St. John the Divine with \$398,000 to be utilized solely for the Sanctuary renovation and beautification. As of now, there has been over \$130,000 committed to this worthy cause by parishioners and friends. Now that the project is completed, you can still become a donor to the SRF to help us accomplish the following:

- You will enable the Church to continue its role as a place of worship and as a valuable cultural resource;
- You will help stabilize the congregation;
- You will help preserve and perpetuate the faith of the Church;
- You will create a sacred and beautiful House of God !

***Your gift to the SRF is an investment that will have  
a tremendous impact on the Church of St. John  
now and unto all ages.***

## LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP:

Consistent with our mission statement, the campaign committee has created not only memorial opportunities for both the living and those loved ones who have passed, but through bequests, insurance, retirement accounts or charitable remainder trusts, as well as gifting stock which may have grown in value.

Both parishioner and non-parishioner can participate in this **new** opportunity. Various sponsorship levels have been created within the **SRF** and can be sponsored in any name of the living or non-living. A brass commemorative plaque will be placed on a wall of honor in the church narthex which identifies all participants.

Donations can be made by individuals, families, organizations or combined families.

Your renovation/beautification committee has worked very diligently to provide for this beautiful renovation . This only can materialize if we all search our souls and make personal financial sacrifices to ensure the future of St. John.

If you have any questions or would like to consider a donation please contact:

John Karras, Campaign Chairman	304 277-4040
George Cosmides, Campaign Treasurer	304 233-7961
Frank Joanou, Campaign Memorial Donations Director	304 242-1387
Paul Joanou, Campaign Bequests, Insurance & Trusts Chairmen	304 243-1671
Gus Kayafas, Campaign Architect	304 233-1816

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## St. John the Divine Sanctuary Renovation Campaign

# Sanctuary Renovation Fund Pledge Commitment Form

Please indicate a sponsorship level below and make checks payable to:  
**St. John Sanctuary renovation Fund ( SRF )**

_____	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>Individual Bronze Plaque for donation above \$40,000</b>
_____	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Liturgical Appointments and Icons for donation above \$30,000</b>
_____	<b>Platinum</b>	<b>\$ 25,000 or \$ 5,000 per year</b>
_____	<b>Diamond</b>	<b>\$ 15,000 or \$ \$3,000 per year</b>
_____	<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$ 10,000 or \$ 2,000 per year</b>
_____	<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$ 5,000 or \$ 1,000 per year</b>
_____	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>\$ 2,000 or \$ 400 per year</b>
_____	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$ 1,000 or \$ 500 per year</b>
_____	<b>Loyalty</b>	<b>\$ 500 or \$ 100 per year</b>

I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**e-mail**

If this is a memorial gift, please name who will be memorialized on the Donor Honor Board. In memory of: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

If you elect to transfer stock to the fund, please call Bill Wagner, Senior Trust Officer at Wesbanco, 304 234-9418 for the procedure of getting the full tax benefit from your gift.

If you elect another method of giving, please contact a Campaign Committee or Parish Council member.

Thank you for your donation.