

## **St. Basil 2017 Long-Term Strategic Vision and Planning**

### **The Project**

By the grace of God, the St. Basil of Ostrog mission parish has grown since its humble beginnings with only 30 families in 1997. The Board of Trustees is developing a long-term strategic growth plan for all aspects of parish life. Part of that plan is to propose a three-phase project over the next three years to include a new hall, remodeling the existing hall to create larger, dedicated classrooms and expand the kitchen, and to address needed facilities and grounds repairs. The plan would culminate and include a remodel of the church to look more like an Orthodox church, as well as, exterior improvements such as improved and expanded parking and sidewalks. The ideas for this three-phase project are a result of the past several years of information gathering by board members and professionals who also conducted meetings with various key faithful who work with kolo, catering, the educational programs, and various groups in St. Basil Church.

### **Background**

Through faith, hard work, and determination, St. Basil of Ostrog Church has grown in attendance, averaging at least 153 worshippers every Sunday in 2016 and the expanding educational activities and programming each year. There are currently five small classrooms that are also used for other purposes like storage. The parking lot, roof, and the 9 original HVAC systems are in need of major repairs. While the church can seat 200 people and an additional 100 for standing, the hall can only seat 126, meaning guests are turned away for regular Sunday lunches, all major holidays and events, such as Sv. Sava celebration, Church slavas, Badnje Vece, etc., when they look into the hall and don't see enough seats at a table for their group.

To address these points and future needs, the St. Basil of Ostrog Trusteeship Board is asking for the thoughts and insights of the faithful regarding future direction and the project goals set below from the previous information gathering. It is vital to ascertain the support of the St. Basil Church community before proceeding further, as the board and committee want to take a fiscally conservative approach and path into the future. Although much work remains to be completed in order to fully define the specifics of the project, we can state at this time, with confidence that the project vision should include the following:

**Goal:** Create a facility and programs that will serve the current and next generation of children and all our programs/ministries:

- **Phase 1-** A 7000 sq. ft. addition: New hall, meeting rooms/classrooms, multipurpose room, bathrooms, stage, and storage at an approximate cost of \$1,700,000. Building a separate new structure will immediately address the studied and current space limits with minimal disruption to current parish life. The new building would have its own mechanicals and would be built attached to the existing structure. It would have all the amenities needed to fully function for all of events including additional and handicapped accessible bathrooms, meeting space, classrooms, an **optional** outdoor pavilion, a stage, fellowship space and storage areas.

- **Phase 2** - Remodel and expand existing classrooms, update and expand kitchen, bathrooms, and office space, at an approximate cost of \$400,000. The extra space in the current social hall will be used to expand classrooms to meet building and safety codes and allow additional meeting space for various parish organizations and new programming that can be added in the future. The kitchen will also be expanded and brought up to the latest in fire and safety codes. The parish priest then will have a private space appropriate for meeting for groups, parishioners, etc.
- **Phase 3** - Remodel of current sanctuary to have a more Byzantine Orthodox presence. Upgrade the parking lot for at least 120 cars. This phase will include changes to the appearance of the sanctuary, as well as, address the practical aspects of parking, drainage, outdoor lighting, and walkways around the entire facility. Estimated expenditures could be for the Sanctuary \$400,000 and grounds improvements \$500,000.

The total cost is estimated at \$3,000,000 over the next 3 years.

The Board of Trustees has adopted a conservative approach to the expansion project. The proposal is a “pay as you go” approach and a plan to have all funds in place before starting the next phase to eliminate the need for a mortgage.

Some additional items being considered:

### **New/Enhanced Ministries**

- **Youth Ministry:**

*Sunday School* - Enhance technology and multimedia in Sunday school to provide religious instruction in the latest teaching and learning styles in dedicated classrooms for all grades. Initiating additional youth mission experiences as part of the programming.

*Cultural Education* – Provide Serbian Classes and the Folklore Dance Program with dedicated space and proper facilities for instruction.

*Vacation Bible School* – To increase the participation of children in Orthodox education, as well as, to utilize the new facilities during the summer months.

*Adult Education* – Continue with adult contemplations while adding Bible study groups during the year, and mission trips.

“*Mommy and Me*” weekly gatherings for activities and sharing of ideas and for young parents with children to start bonding before every coming to Sunday school.

- **Counseling:**

Private dedicated space for general private counseling and premarital counseling

for all couples planning to marry in St. Basil Church. Additional programming for families and couples may include special programming for interfaith couples, families with young children, single parents, widows and widowers, etc.

- **Senior Citizen Ministry:**  
Organize fellowship outings and activities for our seniors.

### **Possible Staffing**

- Part time youth/senior advisor to organize, communicate, market and recruit for organizational activities.
- Part time Internet and social media coordinator.

### **Fund Raising Plan**

The goal, with input from as many faithful as possible, will be to refine and finalize a vision to achieve these goals with an approximate scope of \$3,000,000 through pledges fulfilled over a three-year period of time.

We have contracted a Greek Archdiocese Office of Parish Development consultant who can assist with the fundraising assessment since this service is currently not available through the Serbian Orthodox Diocese.

Now is the time to continue the work and sacrifice of those who came before us. It is understood that it will take true generous giving from all our stewards to move forward into the future as we seek gifts of equal sacrifice and in all different amounts.

The proposed floor plan is attached:

**Phase I** is the addition. **Phases II** and **III** are the remodeled parts of the existing structure.

Each phase is independent and work can be stopped after any individual phase.



