

THE ROAD TO CONSECRATION



“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”

- Matthew 16:18-19



“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- Holy Gospel of St. Matthew (16:13-19)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Please carefully read this packet and prayerfully consider participating in the “Road to Consecration” campaign. Talk to family members and financial advisors, if necessary.

- No donation is excessively large or insignificantly small. All will be received with gratitude.
- Above all, we seek gifts of equal sacrifice and not equal amounts.
- Gifts to this campaign are above and beyond your regular stewardship contribution. Stewardship and other offerings provide for the day-to-day operations of the parish, while your pledge to this campaign will be used specifically to reach our goal for Consecration.

2. Fill out the enclosed pledge card. The pledge card includes a new three year pledge section as well as areas where recognition opportunities can also be made. Information concerning recognition opportunities is included in this packet.

- Down payments for 3 year pledges are not required, but if possible, a 10% down payment is suggested.
- Deposits for recognition opportunities are required and the amounts are listed with each corresponding item.
- Write checks payable to St. Basil the Great with “Road to Consecration” in the memo area.

3. Mail your completed pledge card with any payments in the envelope provided.

3 Year Pledge Amount	10% Down Payment	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment
\$ 30,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 9,000.00
\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,500.00
\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00
\$ 8,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00
\$ 5,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,500.00

Tax Advantages of Giving

Income tax laws encourage charitable giving. All gifts to this campaign are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. It is often advantageous for some people to contribute appreciated securities.

If you choose to contribute appreciated securities held more than 12 months, you may receive a double tax benefit by:

- Avoiding capital gains taxes that would be paid if the stock were sold.
- Receiving a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value at the time of the gift, not the original purchase cost.

Other types of gifts may include life insurance policies you may no longer need, bequest to the church as part of an estate plan, and other valuables. You may contact a member of the GDC for assistance with gift options. Please contact your financial advisor with specific questions.

GDC MEMBER CONTACT

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why is Consecration of a sanctuary important?**

For an Orthodox Christian salvation is union with Christ. This union with Christ is called the "Life in Christ". The center of this "Life in Christ" is the Holy Altar, as well as services that are related to it, i.e. the Seven Sacraments. Because the Holy Altar is so important in the life of an Orthodox Christian, the service of Consecration centers around the Holy Altar Table. In simple terms the Consecration Service is the Baptism and Chrismation of the Church.

2. **What is required from the parish in order for the sanctuary to be consecrated?**

There are two components as described from His Eminence:

A) The payment and completion of a significant portion of the iconography inside the sanctuary. For St. Basil, we must have significant iconography completed, including the Pantocrator, in the sanctuary.

B) Our total debt on our current loan will be required to be less than \$1,500,000.

3. **When do we expect the Road to Consecration program to begin and end?**

The fundraising campaign will start in October 2012 and is expected to last three years. Our goal is to celebrate Consecration in early 2016.

4. **If I pledge money to The Road to Consecration program, will I need to pledge to the annual stewardship program also?**

Yes. The Road to Consecration is a separate program from our Stewardship program. Stewardship pledges support the day-to-day operations of the church. Pledges to The Road to Consecration go to reducing the overall debt of St. Basil.

5. **What are the "Recognition Opportunities" ?**

Recognition opportunities are separate gifting possibilities in which a donor can select to fund a specific item needed to prepare the church for Consecration. These donations are separate from the three-year campaign pledges. There are several different options available and inserts are included for your review in this folder.

6. **What if multiple requests are received for the same Recognition Opportunity?**

Requests will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. If multiple requests are received simultaneously, we will make every effort to accommodate all requests to everyone's complete satisfaction.

7. **How will I be recognized for my donation and/or recognition opportunity?**

A donor wall will be constructed recognizing all of the donors who contribute to this Capital campaign. As was the case with our last campaign, we will not be placing name plates on individual recognition opportunities.

PLEDGE CARD

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Step 1: New 3 Year Pledge:

Total 3 Year Contribution: \$ _____ (a)

Down Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Balance Due: \$ _____

I/we plan to give the balance: ___ Monthly ___ Annually

Step 2: Recognition Opportunities:**

Total Donation Amount: \$ _____ (b)

Initial Deposit Enclosed: \$ _____

Balance Due: \$ _____

Step 3: Total Commitment:

Line item (a): \$ _____

Line item (b): \$ _____

Total Commitment: \$ _____

**** If you are participating in a Recognition Opportunity, please complete the appropriate Recognition Agreement and include it in the envelope along with your pledge card.**

Recognition Opportunity Agreement

(Form to be completed only if you are obtaining a Recognition Opportunity)

St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church
Houston, Texas

The following sets forth a gift agreement between _____ and St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church with regard to the (I) Purpose, (II) Schedule and Form of Contributions, (III) Recognition, and (IV) Administration of the proposed gift.

I. Purpose

I/we agree to make the following contribution to the Road to Consecration Capital Campaign to be used in reducing our debt to allow us to consecrate our church:

Recognition Opportunity: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

II. Schedule and Form of Contributions

All Recognition Opportunities will require a 10% deposit to reserve the particular opportunity.

III. Recognition

All Recognition Opportunities will be recognized once the church is Consecrated. A dedicated wall on the church grounds will be created to recognize all donors to the capital campaign.

IV. Administration

St. Basil the Great is a non-profit organization under IRS guidelines and is charged with soliciting, receiving, investing, and disbursing private gifts which benefit the administration of the church.

Agreed:

Authorized Donor

Date

GDC Chairperson

Date

Parish Council President

Date

Beloved Stewards of St. Basil the Great,

We owe great gratitude to the faithful stewards whose commitment, vision and faith have led us to a position where we have constructed a Greek Orthodox Enclave in West Houston. Our Sanctuary, Chapel, Bell Tower, Memorial Gardens and Administration Building will serve the needs of our parish for many generations to come.

Our work, however, is not completed. Although we are able to offer services in our sanctuary, it has yet to be consecrated. This folder contains the latest information about our campaign, "The Road to Consecration." As your parish priest, I ask each of you to prayerfully consider making your own financial commitment, responding to the blessings that God has bestowed upon you and your family. Though we may not all be able to give at the same level, we can strive to give of equal sacrifice. With God's help, the intercessions of the Virgin Mary, and the prayers of St. Basil the Great and St. Efstathios, I truly believe we can fulfill this vision.

May God give us the strength to meet this challenge, and may He bless you and your family always for your act of Charity. May our Lord also continue to bless our Parish and guide us on "The Road to Consecration."

In Christ's abiding love,



Father Anastasios Raptis

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Our Greek Orthodox Enclave Endures. . . .

In 1992, a Greek school named Nea Vassileiada was created, and a vision was established to build a New Orthodox Church in West Houston. After many struggles and many answered prayers, a temporary sanctuary was completed in December 1999. In 2007, our Parish Assembly unanimously approved a plan that would realize the dreams of the parish by constructing a permanent sanctuary, chapel, administration building, memorial garden and a bell tower. In 2009, Construction was completed and the vision of creating a permanent sanctuary was realized. Iconography soon followed in both the chapel and sanctuary, and we are now ready to pursue our next chapter,



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