

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

McKinney, Texas

Building Project Chronology

Our building project began 12 years ago, when we established a building fund and started looking for a location. For a few years in the '90's the parish income allowed the building fund to grow rapidly. A building committee, led by a licensed engineer and a registered professional land surveyor, laid out the criteria for a viable land purchase, and we spent many years looking for a good piece of real estate in the Dallas area. In the mid-1990's, we even looked at properties in Arlington and Fort Worth.

After a long and difficult search, we decided in the fall of 2006 that the City of McKinney would provide us the best opportunity to find a suitable piece of land within our price range. In April of 2007 we purchased a plot of land in historic downtown McKinney, although we did not yet have the means to build and were undecided about whether this was the best location. As time went on it became clearer that building in McKinney is our best option. We will be the only Orthodox church within 15 miles, in a growing and vibrant community. When you look at a [map of churches in the area](#), there is a “hole” in McKinney. We feel that we are best helping the DFW community by locating here.

Once we made up our minds to build a temple on our land we began to look for a lender, and we had a lot of trouble getting anyone to believe in us. The large national banks did not take us seriously, but we found a friend in a local bank whose vision is to build up the community in which they live and do business. [Independent Bank](#) has believed in us, and we have a superb working relationship with them. When other banks said no, they found a way to say yes.

This has been a long and difficult journey, and the turning point for us was when we began to really apply ourselves to prayer. It is almost a cliché to say that we should pray about something, and we certainly did, but things really changed after we established a regular weekday liturgy in which we pray for all of our parishioners by name during in the Augmented Ectenia. We did not specifically pray for a new temple or land, but instead have regularly served the liturgy and asked God's mercy for everyone in our flock. This additional weekday liturgy is the most important turning point in our chronology. We also added a weekly Molieben for the parish, served at the construction site – initially on bare ground, and now in our completed temple.

Timeline

1994

Deacon Seraphim Holland becomes a resident of Texas on the very day of the glorification of St John Maximovitch. Fr Seraphim had been asked by Bishop Hilarion (now our Metropolitan) to come to Texas to become the pastor of a small mission in Dallas that had been faithfully holding reader's services. We immediately began holding reader's vigils on Saturday night, with typica and a meal on Sunday.

1995

Fr Seraphim ordained to the priesthood.

1997

Building Fund established. Search for a land or a suitable property begun.

2007

Land purchased in McKinney.



January, 2008

On the week after Nativity we began our weekly weekday liturgies. This was made possible because Fr Seraphim no longer was working full time. The highlight of this liturgy is that we pray by name for everyone in the parish during the Augmented Ectenia.

February, 2008

Architect /Designer selected: [Tim Bonner and Associates](#).

Design is based on the "Raising of St. Lazarus", the oldest wooden temple in Russia.



Dr McBride, retired professor of Architecture University of Texas at Arlington helped us immensely during this design phase. He is Sub-Deacon at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Builder/Consultant selected: [Anderson & Sargent Builders](#). They are one of the first "LEED" (Leadership Energy Efficient Design) builders in the area.

March, 2008

Cross erected on the Sunday of the Cross (3rd Sunday of Great Lent).



May, 2008

Outdoor Divine Liturgy on the land on St. Thomas Sunday (April 21/May 4), with a picnic afterwards.



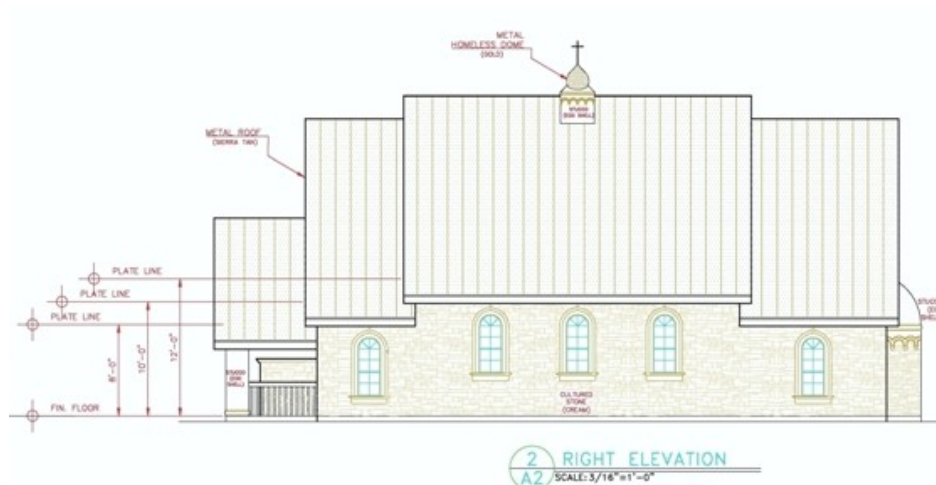
June, 2008

Attempts to get a building loan begun. During discussion with [Independent Bank](#), our eventual lender, it became apparent that we needed to account for a more substantial regular income. The parish responded extremely well to our first call for pledges, increasing our income by fifty percent.

September, 2008

Loan approved.

Building plans submitted to the city of McKinney for approval.



July, 2009

Building permit obtained. Construction begun.

August, 2009

First fund-raising drive during construction. Letter sent appealing for benefactors, and establishment of our “benefactor diptychs,” our list of benefactors for whom we pray in perpetuity.

Concrete for piers poured.



September, 2009

Plumbing and Electrical wiring installed and approved.

Foundation poured.

Walls begun.





Lesser blessing of the waters

October, 2009

Walls nearly completed. Apse constructed.



Rain... Rain... Rain... We continued to pray our Moliebans and Liturgies, including our twice-monthly children's liturgy.



A homily at a children's liturgy

November, 2009

Roof framing done. Plywood roof installed. Interior framing done. Solea installed.





December, 2009

Plumbing, Electrical and HVAC installed.

January, 2010

Iconostasis and altar framing completed, with electrical. Insulation installed. Roof completed. Work begun on parking lot. Dome finished and shipped.

March, 2010

Interior walls and doors. Exterior stone and stucco. Electrical and plumbing fixtures. Parking lot and sidewalks.



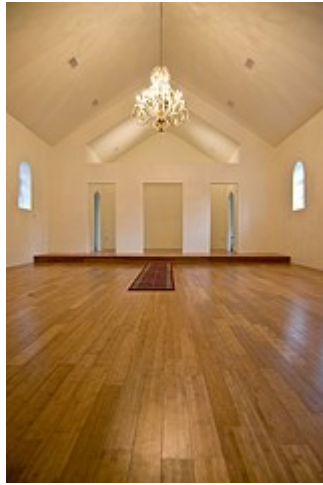
April, 2010

Dome blessed. Electrical power.



May, 2010

Interior and exterior complete.



June, 2010

Landscaping and living fence completed. Move-in and first Liturgy.



