



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE

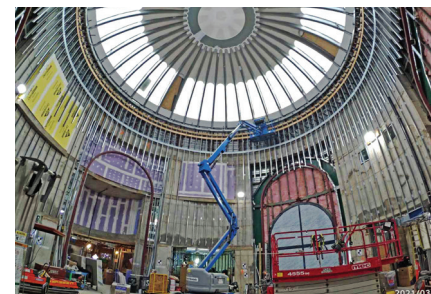
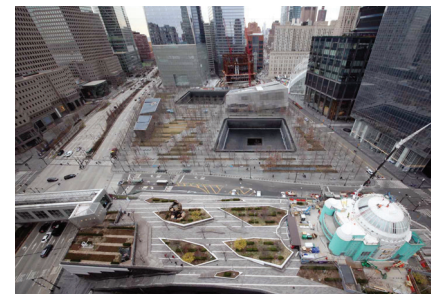
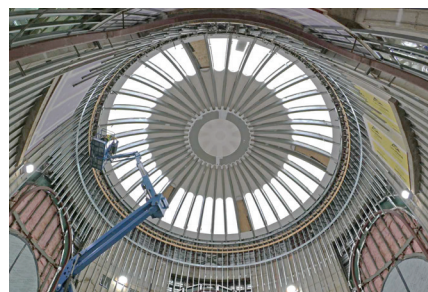
Rebuilding a national treasure at Ground Zero, bringing healing and hope for all

On September 11, 2001, the world watched in horror as the World Trade Center crumpled to the ground and nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives. Among the buildings destroyed was Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, a place of worship founded in 1916 between the financial centers of Wall Street and Battery Park. Saint Nicholas was the only house of worship destroyed on 9/11, and since then, elected officials, community leaders and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America have worked together to rebuild the church as an inclusive place of hope. With construction of the new Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine underway, it will emerge as an architectural and spiritual beacon — a

place of pilgrimage to honor those lost and those who carry their light forward.

“The rebuilding of Saint Nicholas is a project that is near and dear to my heart,” says Chrysanthy Demos, president and CEO of AKT Investments. “Twenty years after these horrific attacks, the final piece of Ground Zero will be completed and will give people around the nation an opportunity to heal.”

Demos and her husband, George, along with her late father-in-law, Emanuel G. Demos, have been involved in the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas from the start. Chrysanthy Demos serves on the board of the Friends of Saint Nicholas, a nonprofit created in 2019 to raise, invest and allocate funds for the construction



and development of the new church and National Shrine. Located at the World Trade Center adjacent to the 9/11 Memorial, Saint Nicholas and the National Shrine is literally a beacon — designed with special translucent marble that glows at night, representing the light of Christ and serving as a place of grace for people of all faiths.

“We wanted Saint Nicholas to be inclusive, and a place for all people to gather and grieve and to take refuge in love and kindness,” Demos says. “The pain of losing people on that day will never go away, but everyone will be welcome to come and reflect, to light a candle and have a moment of silence.”

The original Saint Nicholas Church was known as a spiritual jewel for generations of New Yorkers. The building, originally a row house that served as a community home for Greek immigrants, became the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in 1916. For many of those immigrants, Saint Nicholas would have been the first place they visited after seeing the Statue of Liberty and disembarking from their long journey to America through Ellis Island.

This November there will be a traditional “blessing of the doors” ceremony to celebrate the new Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. The artistic design of the church was inspired by the Hagia Sophia and the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, both located in modern-day Istanbul, Turkey. The new place of worship will include a meditation and bereavement space, as well as a community room above the narthex for all visitors.

“Saint Nicholas will combine its long-standing tradition of warmth and welcome with hope, light and love for the future,” Demos says. “The rebuilding feels like a rebirth — one that will cherish the memory of those that were lost on 9/11, while also building a better future for the generations to come.”

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