

**St. Elias Orthodox Church**  
**Founders Recognition Policy**

**Honoring the Builders of the Church:**

We give thanks and lasting honor to the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations whose extraordinary generosity—through financial gifts, in-kind offerings, volunteer leadership, or sustained service—has laid the foundation for the mission and ministry of St. Elias Orthodox Church. This policy exists to recognize such contributions with reverence and gratitude, in a manner consistent with Orthodox values and tradition. These gifts support capital improvements, sacred spaces, endowments, and essential ministries that build up the life of the Church and bear witness to the love of Christ and the enduring faith of those who help build His Church.

**Giving Pathways:**

Donors may choose from several meaningful ways to contribute to the mission of St. Elias. Each pathway offers a chance to leave a lasting impact. Contributions may be eligible for recognition under this policy, subject to parish leadership approval:

- **First Fruits Giving**  
One-time contributions that provide early momentum for the capital campaign or a specific component. These sacred gifts help launch design, construction, and the visible work of building up the Church.
- **Journey Gifts**  
Three-year commitments made as a prayerful expression of ongoing faith and support. These pledges help sustain the Church's growth through each phase of development. Recognition is based on the total pledged amount, subject to review and documentation.
- **Legacy Giving**  
Planned gifts through wills, trusts, or beneficiary designations. These offerings leave a lasting spiritual legacy and may support long-term needs or endowments.
- **In-Kind Gifts**  
Donations of materials, labor, or professional services that substantially offset project or operational costs. With parish leadership approval, these gifts may be recognized at a level equivalent to their fair market value and will be acknowledged as in-kind in all recognition materials.
- **Matching Gifts and Corporate Contributions**  
Contributions made through employer match programs or direct gifts from businesses.

## **Recognition Tiers:**

Each recognition tier reflects the spiritual intent and scale of the donor's contribution:

- **Founding Benefactors – \$250,000 and above**

- Recognition during the campaign through the St. Elias website, social media posts, and major campaign events, if desired
- Inclusion on the Donor Wall and Book of Founders
- Invitation to a private Founding Benefactor event and periodic project updates, such as progress briefings, site tours, or early access to dedication plans
- Commemorative icon (large), depicting the sanctuary and presented as a blessed keepsake in gratitude for foundational support

- **Pillars of the Church – \$100,000 to \$249,999**

- Recognition during the campaign through the St. Elias website and recognition during major campaign events
- Inclusion on the Donor Wall and Book of Founders
- Commemorative icon (medium), depicting the sanctuary and presented as a blessed keepsake in gratitude for foundational support

- **Patrons – \$40,000 to \$99,999**

- Recognition during the campaign on the website
- Inclusion on the Donor Wall and Book of Founders
- Commemorative icon (small), depicting the sanctuary and presented as a blessed keepsake in gratitude for foundational support

- **Stewards – \$Up to 39,999**

- Recognition during the campaign on the website
- Inclusion in the Book of Founders

### **Eligible Naming Components:**

Select components within the project offer special naming opportunities. These opportunities are reserved exclusively for individuals who:

- Are in good standing with the church
- Have fulfilled their previous pledges
- Have committed to the campaign at the Patron level or above

Additional naming opportunities may be approved at the discretion of parish leadership. Availability of individual components is managed separately and may change as elements are named or reserved. A current list of available naming opportunities can be obtained through fundraising committee or parish leadership.

- **Major Campus Components** (*Reserved for Founding Benefactors*)  
*Examples: Chapel, Parish Hall, Education Building, Courtyard, Bell Tower, Amphitheater*
- **Ministry or Structural Components** (*Reserved for Founding Benefactors and Pillars of the Church*)  
*Examples: Narthex, Adult Baptistry, Administration Suite, Loft/Balcony, Fireside Room, Conference Room*
- **Smaller-Scale Elements** (*Reserved for Founding Benefactors, Pillars of the Church, and Patrons*)  
*Examples: Classrooms (x8), Priest Offices (x3), Gathering Room, Conference Room, Walk of Faith (x4), Memorial Wall (x4)*

### **Naming Guiding Principles**

- Recognition will be spiritually appropriate, aligned with Orthodox tradition, and free from commercial or promotional overtones.
  - Saint-based names (e.g., *St. Tikhon*, or *St. Helen* or *St. Dimitrios*, etc.)
  - Donor-recognition format (e.g., *The XYZ Family Amphitheater*)
  - Memorial Gifts (e.g., *In Memory Of ABC*)
- Donor anonymity will be respected if requested. Anonymous donors will be acknowledged privately and excluded from public-facing recognition such as digital media or donor walls unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- In keeping with good stewardship, naming recognition will be confirmed and announced following full receipt of the qualifying gift.

- All naming opportunities will require approval by parish leadership and, where necessary, the Archdiocesan authority.

**Review and Revisions:**

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the parish council to ensure continued alignment with the Church's mission and development goals.