

St. Cyprian of Carthage Orthodox Church

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF THE SOUTH

September 17, 2019

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

BUILDING FUND APPEAL - 2020

Dear Faithful in Christ,

We should all be filled with thanks to God for the continued growth of the Orthodox Church, and as a microcosm of that growth, our own increase in members and inquirers here at St. Cyprian of Carthage Orthodox Church.

As we know, not every person who is baptized and/or chrismated here at St. Cyprian of Carthage will remain here. We have seen recently and felt the emotion of those coming to the Orthodox Church and then quickly moving on to the next phase of their lives. This is normal, and we have actually received some of the same from other parishes.

We also know that not every person regarded as a member of the parish will be present for every service. There is now, however, a much larger number of persons associated with our parish, so that even lacking 100% attendance from week to week means that we presently see around 100 persons for the Sunday morning service, and many children. Fuller representation of the whole on Sundays now means attendance in the 120's. Thanks be to God!

Over ten years ago a Master Plan was developed for our church property that used the assumption of a parish totaling 200 people. The phase one building from that plan is our current and permanent Temple, with a consecrated Altar since 2016, while it also shares space to serve the additional ministries of education, fellowship, and hospitality. The current building is more than adequate for 200+ people, some seated while most standing, without the current walls dividing the space. So, we have a building now that meets the goal of providing a place for 200+ people to gather for worship, while no longer being adequate to share that space for education, fellowship, and hospitality.

While worship is our first stated mission objective, we also intend to provide for the education of our members, both children and adults, possibly functioning in the future as a small Orthodox Christian Classical School. In addition to this important mission of education, we intend to provide space for fellowship, hospitality, and outreach among our parish members and community.

Various codes for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America dictate standards for construction of commercial buildings, the category in which churches are placed. For instance, a building slightly larger than our current one would be required to have a fire sprinkler system, or if we were to attach a building to the current one, it would be required to provide this fire retarding system. Or, the construction of a two story building would require an elevator system. Both of these features add incredible cost to what is already an expensive project. While other strict standards exist, these two explain why our Master Plan that was developed over ten years ago took the path of three smaller buildings forming a campus instead of one larger, or interconnected, or storied buildings.