



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Dedication Album (S0031)

Collection Number: S0031

Collection Title: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Dedication Album

Dates: 1962

Creator: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Abstract: This collection contains a dedication album of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in St. Louis, Missouri, titled *Partners in Progress*. St. Nicholas created the album in 1962 to celebrate the addition of a community center to the church. The album documents the history of St. Nicholas's Greek Orthodox Church and the Greeks in St. Louis from 1870-1962.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English and Greek.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Dedication Album* (S0031); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Thomas Jefferson Library on September 17, 1974 (Accession No. SA0458).

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, March 2023

Historical Note:

With increasing immigrant rates throughout the United States in the early 20th century, places like St. Louis saw a dramatic increase in Greek immigrants by 1910. The rising Greek population in St. Louis lacked a centralized church they could attend until 1904. Greece at the time had been sending consuls to places like Chicago, New York, and Boston to establish Greek Orthodox churches under the government of Greece. After the large influx of Greek immigrants to St. Louis, consul Dimitrios Jiannopoulo established the Holy Trinity Parish in 1904 on the corner of 19th and Delmar Street in St. Louis City. However, within a few years, Holy Trinity Parish lacked consistent financial support and started to charge its members fees for Sunday services, funerals, weddings, and baptisms. The lack of funding caused tension amongst parish leadership and led to the founding of the second Greek Orthodox church in 1911. The Church of Evangelismos met at 17th and Olive Streets in St. Louis City but disbanded by 1913 when most of its members returned to Greece to fight in the Balkan Wars. With the closure of the Church of Evangelismos and the continuing financial dysfunction of Holy Trinity Parish, St. Louis Greeks were still lacking a centralized Greek Orthodox church in St. Louis.

The first meeting of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church occurred at Druid's Hall in St. Louis City on April 8th, 1917. The founding members of St. Nicholas church wanted to break away from the Greek government-instituted churches. On September 30th, the church announced the first priest of St. Nicholas, Father Constantine Liakopolous. A few days after the announcement, the committee agreed on the current name of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on October 3rd. After deciding on a name and priest, St. Nicholas still needed a location for the church. The committee chose to reside in an existing church on Garrison and St. Louis avenues on October 14th. The parish met at this location until a tornado on September 29th, 1927, reduced the church to rubble. The church has resided at 4967 Forest Park Avenue in St. Louis since September 20th, 1931. St. Nicholas expanded the building in 1960 with a community center for its members.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one folder and maintained in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church dedication album *Partners in Progress* contains a 200-page illustrated history of the church, community center, and Greeks in St. Louis from the 1870s to the 1960s. The church created the album to celebrate the completion of the community center in 1962. The collection has been arranged into one folder and maintained in its original order.

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