ARISE & BUILD
St. John the Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church

Quarterly Report

May 2026

Dear St. John Parishioners,

The first quarter of 2026 was filled with meaningful progress. From interior furnishing designs to vendor selection and refining our construction timeline, we've been focused on the details that will bring the Arise & Build project to life.

"Let us arise and build!" So they strengthened their hands for the good work.
- Nehemiah 2:18

Creating beautiful, welcoming spaces in the Ministry Building and sanctuary goes beyond walls and structures. Our team has begun thoughtfully selecting furnishings that will make each area comfortable, functional, and inviting. Throughout the process, we are prioritizing quality while remaining mindful of cost.

Items such as tables, desks, chairs, and rugs are being carefully selected to create a cohesive, practical and inviting environment within the Ministry Building. In the sanctuary, furnishings for the new family/bride room are being chosen to support a flexible, multipurpose space. (Photo below - the newly redesigned narthex.)

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Meet Our AV & Security Vendor

Safety and security are two of the most important aspects of our new church grounds. The Arise & Build team is working with a prominent A/V company to help ensure our parishioners always feel safe and protected on campus.

What is Visionary Systems?

VISIONARY SYSTEMS
SECURITY - COMMUNICATIONS - IT

Visionary Systems was founded in 2015, out of a passion for technology to help churches across Central and North Florida update their audio/visual systems. As a family owned and operated business, Visionary Systems understands the importance of security and later transitioned to installing commercial security systems. Visionary Systems is driven to provide the best security systems available on the market and is a trusted and innovative leader in the digital and physical security industry.

How Visionary Systems Supports Arise & Build

One of the most significant security additions is the new, integrated security system featuring high-resolution cameras and controlled door access. The camera system incorporates advanced technology, including enhanced image clarity and facial recognition capabilities. Cameras will be installed at all doors and access points across the entire St. John campus, including parking lots and hallways, helping to enhance safety and security across the campus.

The new door access control will allow office staff to view visitors at the Ministry Building entrance and grant entry remotely. Access can also be extended to ministry leaders for approved after-hours use of Ministry Building spaces.

- The Ministry Building will be equipped with audio/visual (AV) technology in several rooms. The conference room will feature comprehensive conferencing capabilities, including screen sharing, video conferencing and streaming. The small fellowship hall will have two mounted televisions for streaming, along with a high quality microphone and speaker system to support events.

- The sanctuary will be outfitted with a second camera to provide close-up viewing of the Solea and baptismal font. New speakers will be installed to deliver improved clarity and sound quality during the Liturgy.

- The Kourmolis Center will receive sound system enhancements in preparation for the temporary relocation of the sanctuary during the church expansion. These enhancements will be completed prior to holding Liturgy in this space and are a part of the planned renovations to the Kourmolis Center.

Construction Update

Phase I: Ministry Building Renovation

Architectural Design

- **Ministry Building Design: *Finalized*** - includes new mechanical system, roof, church offices and meeting space, small fellowship hall, choir room, shared classroom/ministry space, updated restrooms, increased storage, accessible facilities, etc.

Permitting & Approvals

- **Construction Documents**: ***Complete*** - required to obtain all necessary permits and approvals in accordance with city and county requirements, as well as other stakeholders.
- **Expedited Permit Review: *In Process*** - comments received and being addressed; follow-up inspection required.
- **Phase I Environmental: *Complete* -** checked property history and condition for possible environmental issues. None were found.

Contractor

- **Proposals:** Design documents submitted to contractors; awaiting final bids; selection to follow.
- **Proposals:** Visionary Systems to be presented to Parish Council for approval as A/V and security provider.

Phase II: Church Sanctuary Expansion

Architectural Design

- **Design Scope: *Finalized*** - further revisions made to improve narthex design, address city requirements and increase seating capacity and functionality.

Permitting & Approvals

- **Construction Documents**: ***In Process* -** For submission to permit expeditors and city of Tampa
- **Expedited Permit Review**: ***In Process*** - Pending completed permit set of construction documents
- **Phase I Environmental**: ***Complete***

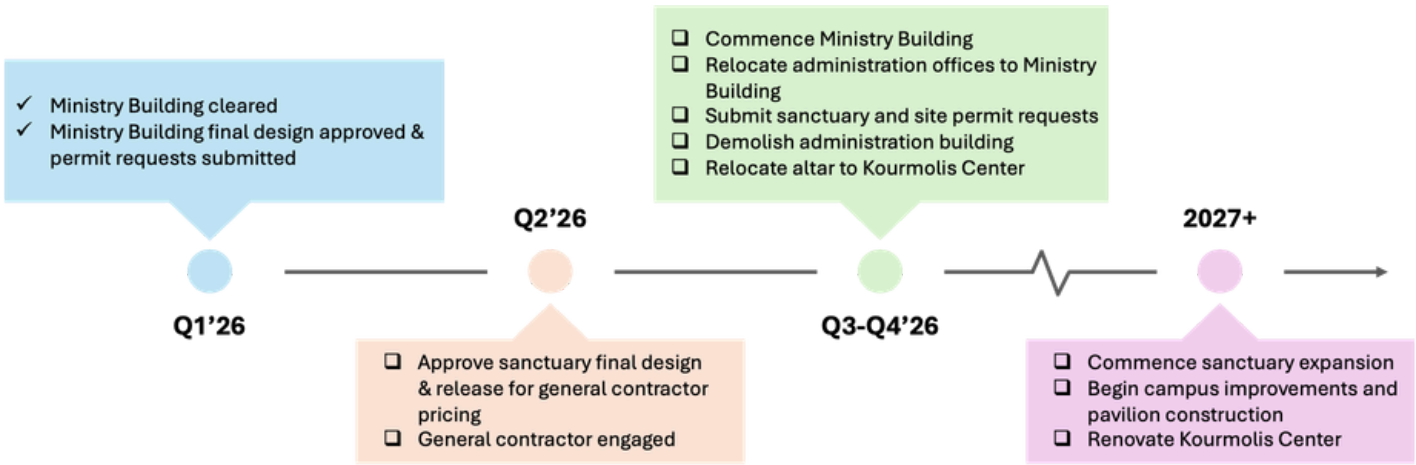
Contractor

- **Proposals:** Final plans submitted to contractors; awaiting final bids from contractors; selection to follow.

Coming Soon!

Phase III: Kourmolis Center and Grounds Renovation

Projected Quarterly Timeline



Financial Update

We are grateful for your past and future generosity. Arise & Build continues to seek pledges and donations to fund increased construction costs, expanded scope and the post-construction furnishing phase. A revised fundraising target will be shared once a general contractor has been selected for the Ministry Building, sanctuary and grounds. Below is a financial update as of April 27, 2026.

Every gift, no matter the size, strengthens and supports this project

Pledge Update

55%	$7.88M	411	$5.81M	$55K
Parishioner Participation	Total Amount Pledged	Total # of Pledges	Funds Collected	Interest Earned

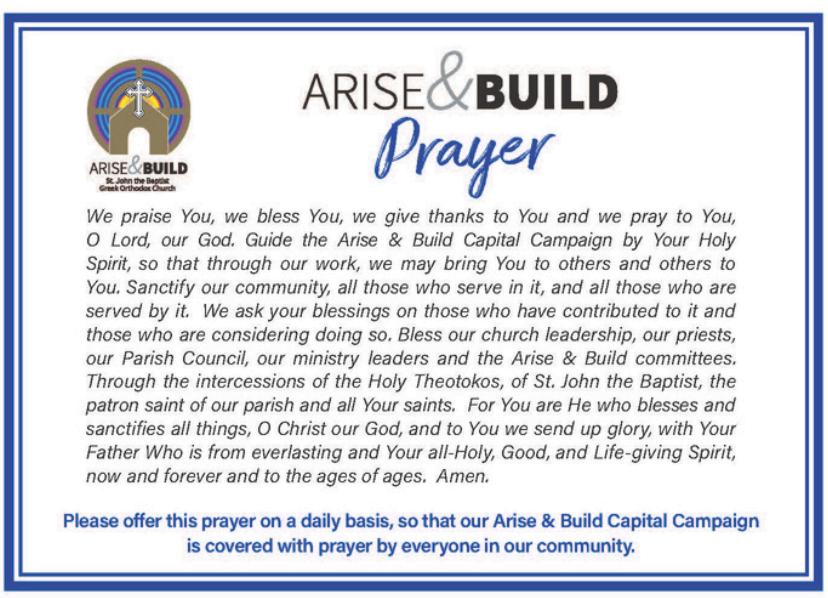
Campaign Expenses

Construction	Mar/Com	Events	Other*	**Total**
$99,275	$35,021	$9,778	$9,132	**= $153,206**

*Bank fees, software, consultant

Arise & Build Prayer

The Arise & Build Prayer was written to serve as a reminder that at the center of the campaign is prayer. It never would have begun without prayer, and prayer is what sustains it. Please offer this on a daily basis so that our Arise & Build Capital Campaign is covered with prayer by everyone in our community.



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