
History of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

In 1956 the current property was purchased, although that part of Grand Junction was still very rural. The building site on a hill was significant because Greek villages were often built on hillsides.

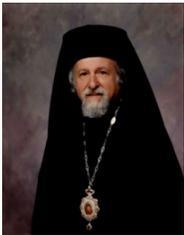
That first building, a meeting hall, was designed in 1958 by Robert Hightower, a Grand Junction architect. It now forms the western section of the present parish structure, and provided space for social events and liturgical services from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Saint Nicholas was chosen as the patron saint for the community because his feast day falls in December, a time of year when sheepmen traditionally could be in town for religious observances. The parish was incorporated in the State of Colorado in 1958, and was granted an ecclesiastical charter from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America in the same year.

In the late 1980s the community began planning for the current church. A local builder, Mr. Jim Wilson, and his architect son, Mr. Trent Wilson, were commissioned to design and build the sanctuary. Construction began in April, 1991, and was completed by Christmas.

The Saint Nicholas community has grown, both numerically and spiritually, because the faithful remain focused on our Lord, Jesus Christ. The first Greek immigrants to Colorado were followed by other Orthodox faithful whose families originated in Armenia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

In addition, numerous individuals have embraced the ancient and traditional Orthodox Christian faith. These modern-day converts follow the example of the earliest Christians who came to the Christian faith through the preaching of the Apostles, such as Saint Paul and Saint Luke, who traveled among the Hellenic peoples of Greece and Asia Minor. The twentieth-century Greek immigrants to America, direct descendants of those earliest converts from paganism to Christianity, brought the Orthodox faith to western Colorado. Their example and steadfastness in turn has inspired many who now worship in the beautiful church which they built, and who today profess with them the ancient Orthodox Christian faith.



Saint Nicholas parish is under the immediate spiritual jurisdiction of His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver; he is the “bishop” of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver. His Chancellor, the Reverend Luke Uhl, represents Metropolitan Isaiah and also serves as the pastor of our parish. The Metropolis is comprised of parishes in fourteen states: Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

The Metropolis of Denver is one of nine “dioceses” within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. These include the Direct Archdiocesan District, and eight metropolises: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America is the “bishop” of the Archdiocese. He is also the senior hierarch of the Eparchial (Provincial) Synod comprised of the eight Metropolitans of the Archdiocese.



The Archdiocese of America is an eparchy (province) of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Patriarchate is one of fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Patriarchates and Churches. His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople is the “bishop” of the Patriarchate. He is also the senior hierarch, the “first among equals,” of all Orthodox bishops worldwide.