

St. Sava Monastery Camp Building Restoration

*Preserving Our Legacy,
Building Our Future*



Overview

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Steering Committee Members

Blessed and approved by Metropolitan Longin



Bishop Serafim



Nina Brkich



Ryan Dorsey



Vicki Dorsey



Aleks Lazic



Brian Less



Teena Less



Nada Savatic



Gina Showers



Alex Starcevich



Simo Starcevich



Sava Alexander
Vojcanin



Valerie Vojcanin



Danielle Vorkapich



Marko Vorkapich

OUR MISSION

Renew the sacred grounds of St. Sava Monastery (Libertyville, IL) through the restoration of the historic camp building, establishing the **St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center** —a place where Serbian Orthodox faith, culture, and community can flourish for generations to come. In breathing new life into these grounds, we ensure that future generations have a place to gather, grow, and remain connected to our faith and one another.

St. Sava Monastery Grounds - Building Restoration

Preserving Our Legacy, Building Our Future

St. Nikolaj Velimirovich and St. Mardarije had a vision—a vision to establish the first Serbian Orthodox Monastery in America, as not just a place of worship, but a sacred home for Serbian Orthodox people. His last will and testament entrusted these holy grounds to us, to be cherished, nurtured, and passed on as a living monument of our culture and faith. Almost 100 years later and most will agree that this vision is more relevant now as it was then. In a world where convenience and distraction too often pull us apart, these grounds remain a beacon of hope for our communities which we hold dear. Samo Sloga Srbina Spasava. This timeless truth is at the heart of our identity, and it is the foundation upon which we must build.

The restoration of these grounds will erect the *St Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center* – a building that is not simply an investment in stone and mortar, but an investment in ensuring that these sacred grounds continue to serve as a gathering place for our people: A place where future generations can connect to their roots and to one another. A place where, through spiritual retreats, gatherings, and the St Sava Camp program, we can rebuild our communities—stronger and more unified than ever.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Longin, a committee was selected and seated in 2024 to lead the building renovations so that this mission could continue. Let us unite to breathe new life on these holy grounds, a testament to the unity that saves us all. This building will be a tribute not just to the past, but to the future. It will be the embodiment of our shared commitment to carry forward St. Mardarije’s vision; creating a space that will foster our communities and ensure that Serbian Orthodox people always have a home on this side of the Atlantic, far from the homeland.

St Sava Monastery History

Land Purchased

September 24, 1923

Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic asks Bishop Mardarije to purchase property in Chicago to erect a Monastery.

Monastery Erected

1930-1940

Construction of the monastery completed, along with the establishment of the cemetery, farmland, and supporting buildings.

Sanctified Grounds

1923-1931, 2020

Since its consecration, St. Sava Monastery has had great spiritual wealth, served as a home to 2 glorified saints, St. Mardarije and St. Nikolaj, who left the campus as a legacy to us.

Consecration

September 6, 1931

Srbobran writes “..*The day of consecration will be the day of pride for all Serbian people on this side of the Atlantic. On that day all hard work and sacrifices will be crowned. It took too long to build a Monastery. The road was a thorny and difficult one. The economic situation of the country was a difficult one. The Serbs however succeeded building a beautiful place they must be proud of.*”

St Sava Camp

1942-1946

The Federation of Circles of Serbian Sisters initiated a children’s camp with the help of V. Rev. Milan and Protinica Jelena Brkich. A building was constructed on the land and it was established as St. Sava Camp.



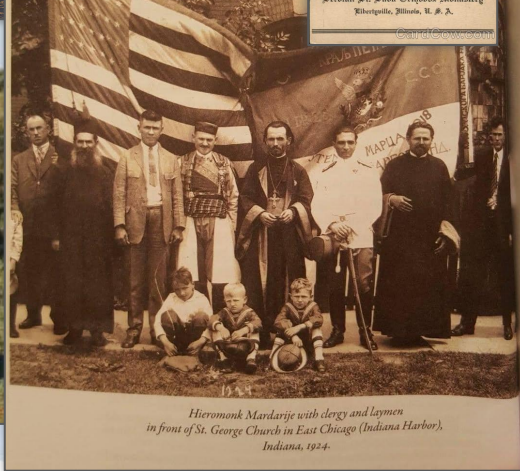
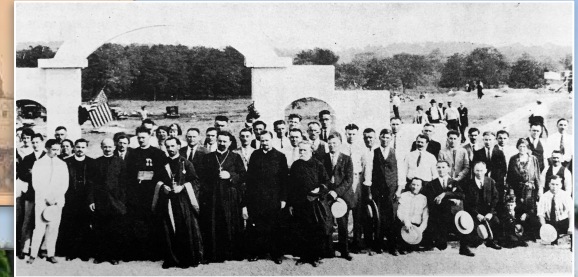
*Serbian St. Sava Orthodox Monastery
Ribeauvieu, Illinois, U. S. A.*



*Metropolitan Monastery of St. Sava,
Monastery, Libertyville, Ill. USA.*



*Serbian St. Sava Orthodox Monastery
Monastery of St. Sava, Libertyville,
Illinois, U. S. A.*



*Hieromonk Mardarije with clergy and laymen
in front of St. George Church in East Chicago (Indiana Harbor),
Indiana, 1924.*





St Sava Monastery Camp Building Recent History

Building Closed

2015

St. Sava Children's Camp was last held in the building in 2015, after which it was deemed unsafe, resulting in the building being condemned. Over the next nine years, the building sat unused and fell into further disrepair.

Renovation Appeal

2017-2019

Started appeal for building renovation, raised \$202K, and began work.

- Interior demolition
- Installed security fence
- Patched hole in roof
- Professional services (architect, engineers, GC)
- Purchased windows and supplies (wood for framing, PVC piping, etc.)
- Applied for lift station permit

Pandemic

2020-2023

Stopped all work due to COVID19 Pandemic. Received resignations from professional resources (architect, civil and structural engineers).

Project Restarted

2024

Project restarted, scope refined. Engaged new professional resources. Selected small building committee to work with new professional resources



Project Overview

St Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center

Committee Progress

Committee Seated

June 2024

Steering committee established to oversee renovation; began meeting weekly and monthly to plan next steps.

Contractor Vetting

June-Nov 2024

Building was shown to 7 contractors; 3 formal bids received and reviewed in detail.

Accounting Review

Aug-Nov 2024

Committee gathered and analyzed historical financial records related to past fundraising and renovation efforts.

Building Name

Sep 2024

Approved building name as *St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center*.

GC Selected

Feb 2025

M&G Unique Construction chosen as General Contractor (GC). Reviewed permit set drawings and identified cost-saving changes.

Drawings & Permits

Mar-May 25

Architect began revisions to drawings. GC and committee met with civil engineer to outline required permits (6 total).

Final Contract

Apr-May 25

Final contract negotiations in progress with GC.

Permit Prep

May-Jun 25

Permit applications being prepared for submission to local government.

Outreach

May 25-Present

Materials finalized; outreach to donors and parishes underway.

Must demonstrate 50% proof of funds prior to beginning construction
Targeting: 2025



St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center



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St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center



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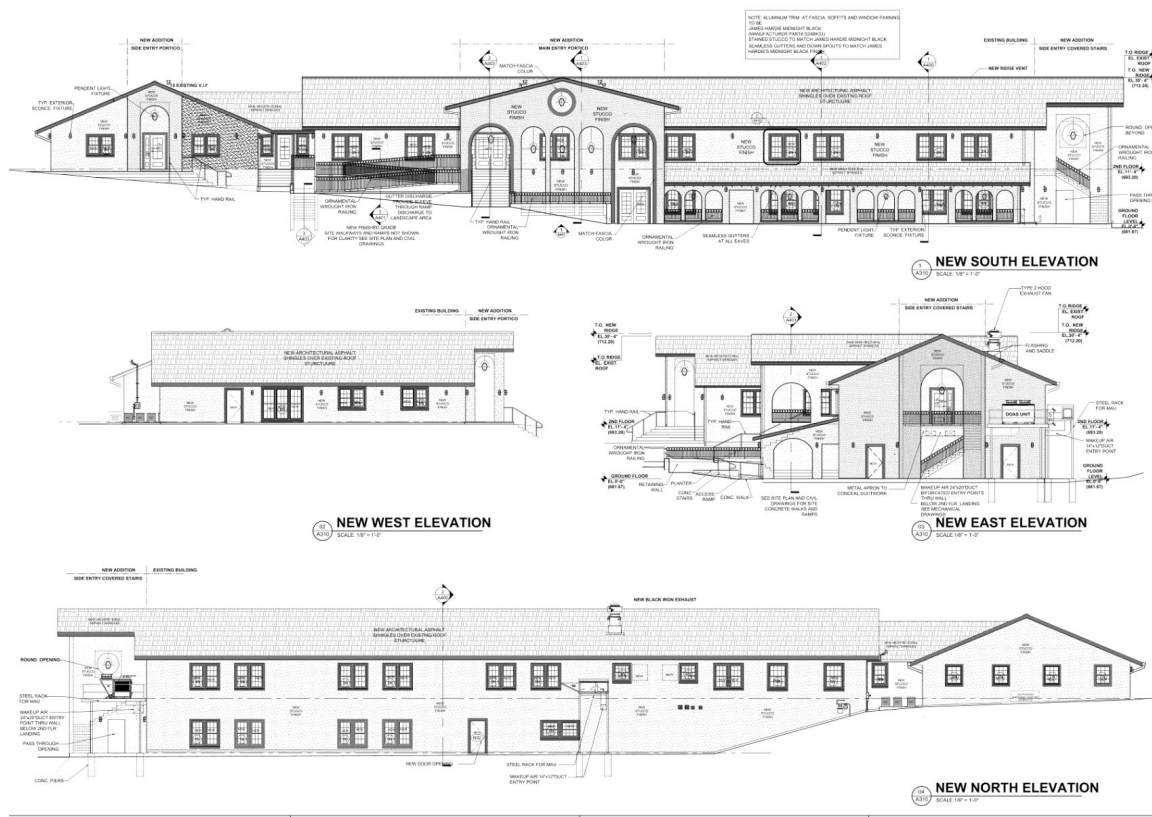
St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center



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St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center

St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center Building Plans





K2 STUDIO
 22 W. 18th STREET
 SUITE 501
 CHICAGO, IL 60616
 ph: 312-275-2800
 em: K2@K2ARCH.COM
 web: www.k2studio.net

SERBIAN MONASTERY RENOVATION

32377 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVE.
 LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60948

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
 RUS, JANEV, ELSTER ASSOCIATION
 100 Princeton Road
 Northbrook, Illinois 60062
 ph: 847-272-7486
 www.rjea.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
 GREENGLASS, INC.
 1111 Building Boulevard, Suite 310
 Chicago, Illinois 60642
 ph: 474-3883 / 474-3889
 www.greenglass.com

#	DATE	REMARKS
1	02/13/20	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
2		
3		
4		

ISSUED FOR PERMIT
 2025-02-13

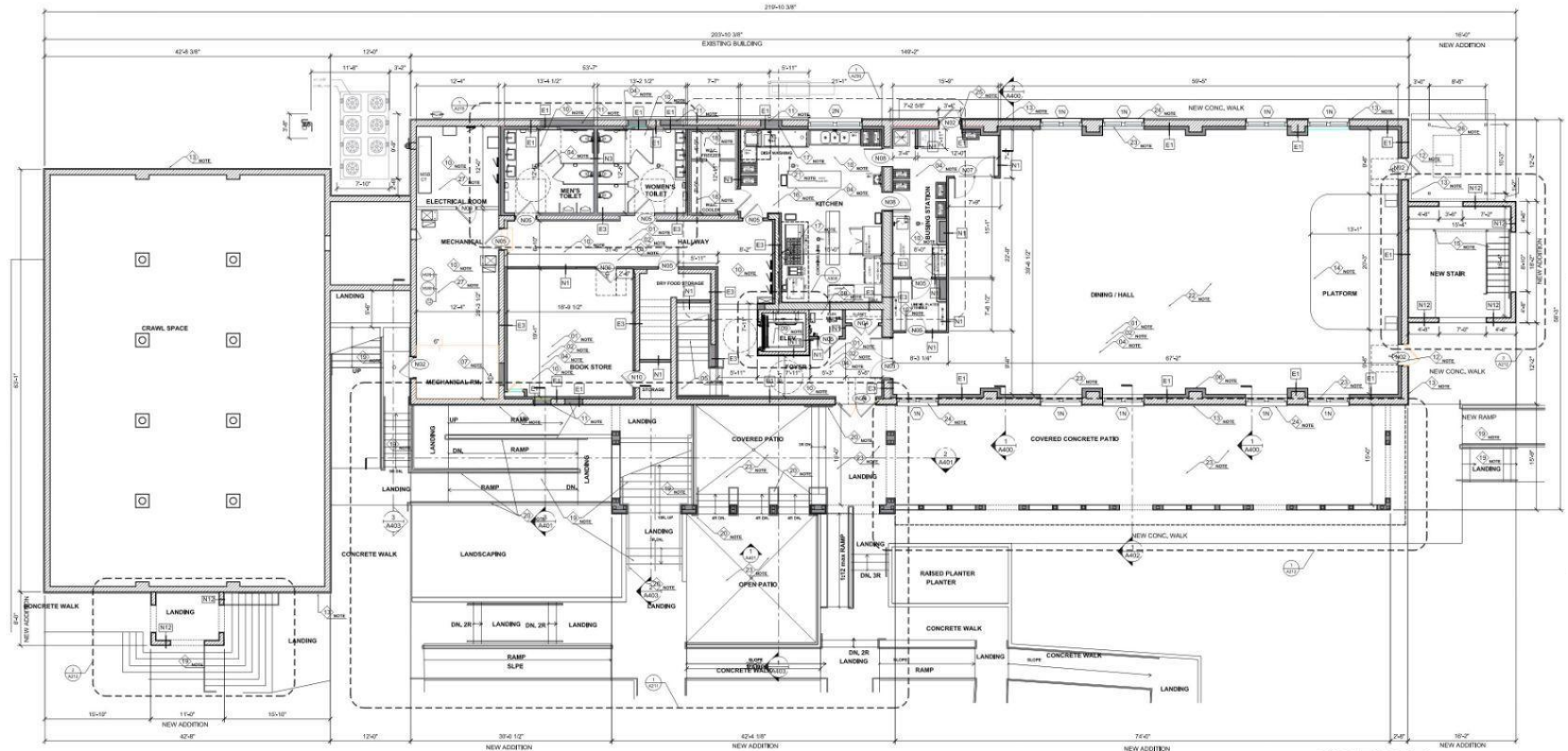
PROFESSIONAL SEAL

 RUS, JANEV, ELSTER ASSOCIATION
 No. 01-0504
 STATE OF ILLINOIS
 EXP. 12/31/2025

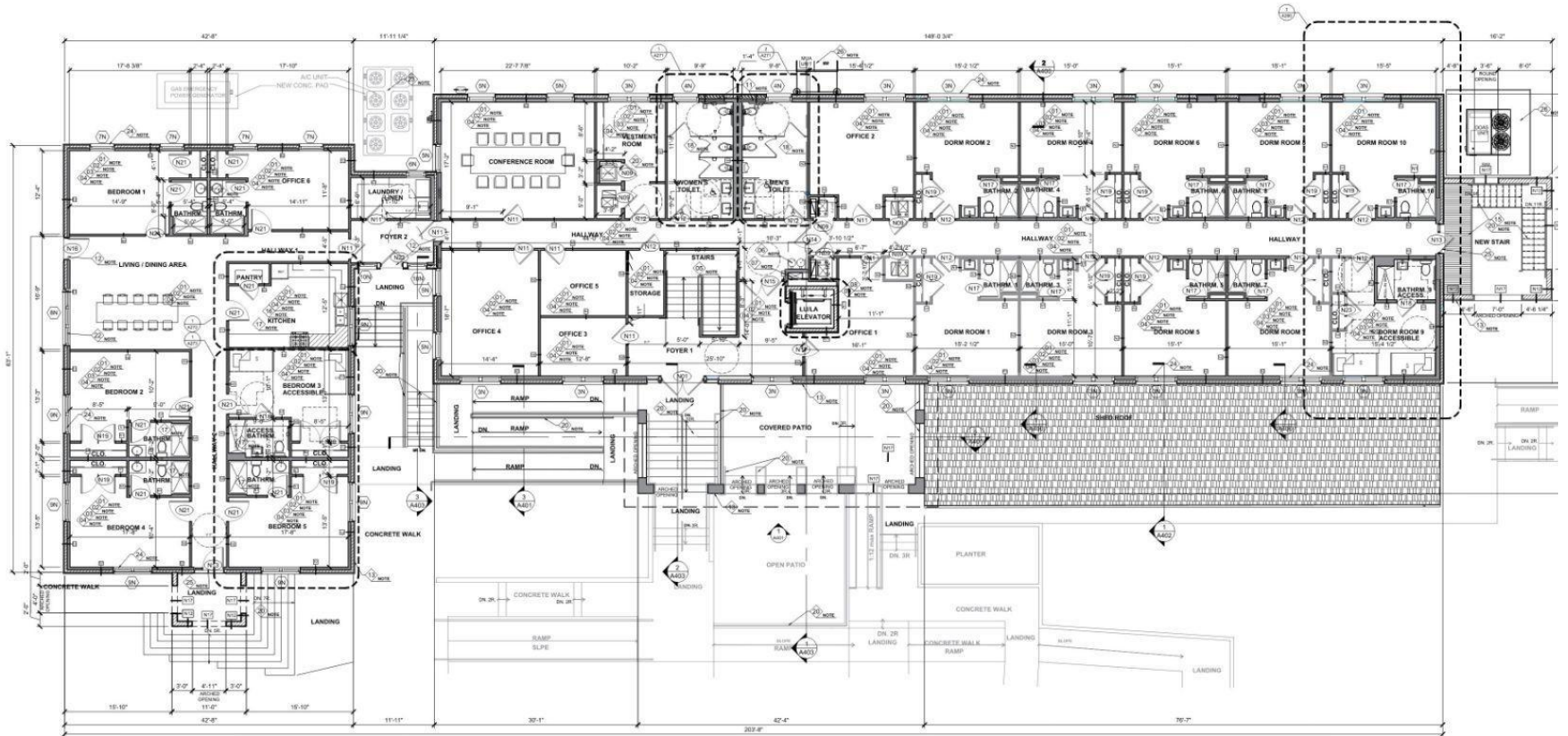
OWNER BY: K2 STUDIO
 DRAWN: NEW ELEVATIONS
 CHECK: AS NOTED

SHEET NUMBER **A310**

St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center First Level



St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center Second Level



Building use

● Visitors Center

Official Monastery Grounds Visitors Center:

- A diocesan Bookstore with religious books, icons, and gifts
- A Library & Reading Room for spiritual study and historical archives
- Office and meeting spaces for clergy, committees, and parish representatives
- A common space where parishes across the Midwest can connect, collaborate, and deepen ties with the Diocese

● St. Sava Camp

The return of St. Sava Camp, which has been halted for nearly a decade due to the facility being condemned. As a beloved youth program in our Diocese, its revival is a priority.

- Summer program for youth ages 7-18
- Capacity for approximately 70 participants
- 3-week summer schedule (Mid-July to early August)
- New safety, sanitation, and program enhancements

Building use

● Church Events & Gatherings

Church-sanctioned events, including:

- Baptismal luncheons, milestone anniversaries, weddings (receptions only) Parish picnics, Diocesan Day, Dacas, and large feast-day gatherings
- Faith-based programs and community celebrations

● Diocese Programming & Support

Extension of Diocesan operations:

- Educational seminars and liturgical workshops
- Meeting space for clergy and parish leadership
- On-site supply storage and maintenance facilities to support monastery upkeep

● Retreats, Youth Programs & Workshops

In addition to St. Sava Camp, a variety of year-round programs designed to deepen faith, strengthen community, and pass on our sacred traditions:

- Youth and young adult retreats
- Choir and liturgical music workshops
- Iconography and religious art workshops
- Leadership and clergy-laity renewal programs

● Konak & Pilgrimages

Overnight accommodations may be approved for program-based, supervised religious and cultural use only (e.g. SSC, retreats).

All overnight stays will follow insurance and operations guidelines outlined in the formal manual.

A formal **Operations Manual** has been drafted and is a central part of this initiative, ensuring the long-term care of the building.

This committee is working closely with the Diocese to finalize all responsibilities and **safeguard the future of this building and Monastery grounds.**

- **Groundskeeper**

Diocese will appoint a dedicated caretaker responsible for regular maintenance, security, and preserving the building's structural integrity.

- **Facility Use Guideline**

Detailed scheduling and usage policy will govern retreats, camps, and events to ensure the space is respected and cared for.

- **Preventative Maintenance**

The building will be fully insured and subject to routine inspections, as well as formal maintenance schedule for annual and seasonal upkeep.

Call to Action

Making the Vision a Reality

St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center Restoration

Fundraising Goal: **\$6 Million**

Building & Grounds Restoration: \$5.5M

- Apply for permits
- Interior construction
- Heating, ventilation, air conditioning
- Drainage and earthwork
- Pave basketball court
- Appliances and finishes allowance
- Accessibility requirements - parking lot grading, bathrooms, elevator

Furnish Building: \$400K

- Beds (frames, mattresses, pillows, etc.)
- Furniture (tables, chairs, bookcases, etc.)
- Kitchenware (plates, silverware, pots & pans, etc.)

Continued Building Maintenance: \$100K*

- Cleaning after events
- Repair damage
- Pay utilities
- Necessary maintenance needs

*Continued Building Maintenance annual expense ~ \$100K.
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Ways to Give

Legacy Brick Sponsor

Leave your mark for generations to come. Honor a loved one, commemorate your family, or celebrate your parish with a personalized engraved brick that will be permanently installed on the grounds of the Spiritual & Cultural Center.

[Brick Form Access](#)

More to come!

Sponsor the Build

Support a space. Inspire a legacy. Major gifts have the opportunity to name rooms, wings, or key features of the building. These gifts leave a lasting imprint and fund essential construction, furnishing, and restoration efforts.

[Sponsorship Form Access](#)

Open Contribution

Every gift makes a difference. Whether one-time or recurring, large or small, your donation directly supports construction, operations, and the long-term mission of the St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center. Gifts may be made publicly or anonymously.

[Donation Form Access](#)

Sponsor the Build



Major Naming Opportunities* Visible, legacy-driven spaces for donors seeking lasting impact	
St. Mardarije Gathering Fellowship Hall <i>Where meals, fellowship, and celebrations bring our people together</i>	\$500,000
Cultural & Education Hall <i>A space for creative workshops and cultural programming</i>	\$250,000
Fellowship Kitchen <i>Prepares daily meals, supports events, and fosters the spirit of hospitality</i>	\$200,000
Youth Recreation Grounds <i>Outdoor basketball court for play, activity, and joyful connection among campers</i>	\$300,000
Lodging Wing <i>Naming of the entire lodging wing, including hallways and shared spaces; marked at the entrance</i>	\$500,000

Room-Level Sponsorships Ideal for parishes, families, or small group sponsorships	
St. Sava Camp Dorm Rooms <i>Sponsor a guest room where campers and visitors stay; plaque outside each room</i>	\$25,000
Heritage Meeting Room <i>A flexible space for parish meetings, Diocese programming, or small groups</i>	\$50,000
Unity Meeting Room <i>A flexible space for parish meetings, Diocese programming, or small groups</i>	\$50,000
Faithful Gifts Bookstore <i>A welcoming entry space offering Orthodox books, icons, and spiritual resources</i>	\$100,000
Gathering Patio <i>A tranquil outdoor area for reflection, conversation, and fellowship</i>	\$75,000

Infrastructure & Furnishing Sponsorships Essential features that ensure comfort and long-term care	
Sacred Space Furnishings <i>Helps furnish every room with warmth and purpose: beds, chairs, tables, etc.</i>	\$100,000
Table of Hospitality (Kitchenware) <i>Provides cookware, dishes, and utensils used in daily meals and feast days</i>	\$25,000
Foundational Features (Interior Finishes & Appliances) <i>Supports HVAC, lighting, appliances, and essential systems</i>	\$75,000
Welcoming Ways (Accessibility Features) <i>Ensures ADA so all can access the center comfortably and respectfully</i>	\$75,000
Long Term Care Fund <i>A long-term fund for building upkeep, repairs, and ongoing care of the center</i>	\$100,000

*Naming opportunities subject to Diocese approval on a case-by-case basis.
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“As three strings on one instrument, and each one you play it touches the heart of the Serb; Such is the famous Monastery of Saint Sava Libertyville in the middle of America.

The first string is the monastery itself.

The second one is the cemetery.

And the third one is the children’s camp.

The string of prayer, the string of sorrow, and the string of joy.”

St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

Your Support Means

- A lasting center for faith and Serbian culture in America
- Recognition from the Serbian Orthodox Church and your community
- A place for our children to experience their heritage and traditions
- Gratitude from future generations for preserving a place of faith, unity, and connection

Help make St. Sava Monastery the proper center of the Serbian Orthodox Church in America, a worthy home for St. Mardarije incorrupt relics, and a welcoming place for those who wish to experience the blessings which St. Sava Monastery and St. Mardarije can offer.

Other ways to get involved

Follow for updates & reach out!

In spirit of transparency - we are excited to share updates on the St. Sava Monastery (Libertyville) official website and social media pages. Follow along for project updates, building progress, events, how to get involved, etc.

- <https://stsavamonastery.org/>
- Facebook: @SaintSavaMonastery

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the committee with any questions or raising your hand to get involved!

- stsavarenovation@gmail.com

Online Donations: <https://stsavamonastery.org/donate-now/>

Check Donations: PO BOX 519 Libertyville, IL 60048 | Checks payable to: St. Sava Monastery | Memo: Camp Renovation

Thank you!

The St. Mardarije Spiritual & Cultural Center Steering Committee
stsavarenovation@gmail.com

