



Orthodox Church Architecture

St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church
Children's Sunday School

Inside of the Church

Three Main Parts

The Narthex

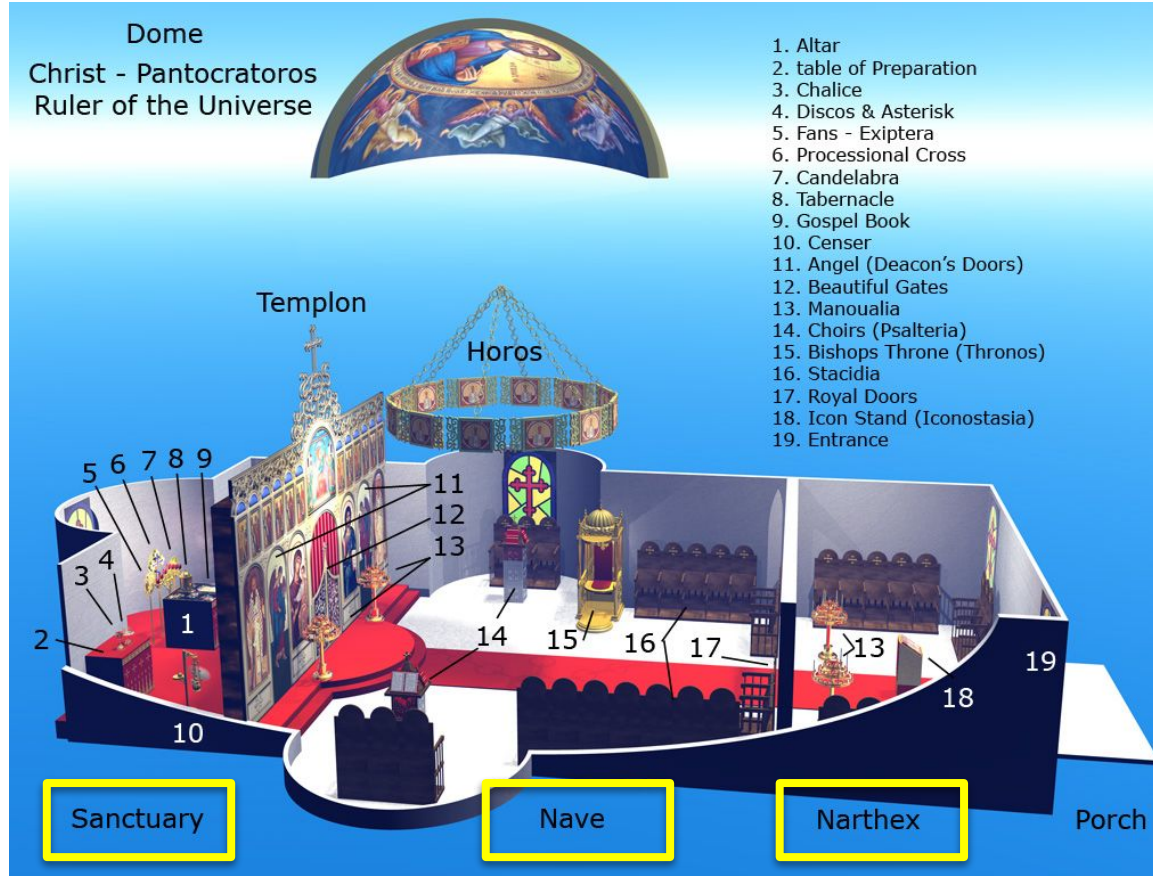
The Entry Room of the Church
Where we prepare ourselves

The Nave

The Main Part of the Church
Where we pray together

The Sanctuary

The Front of the Church
Where the Altar is located



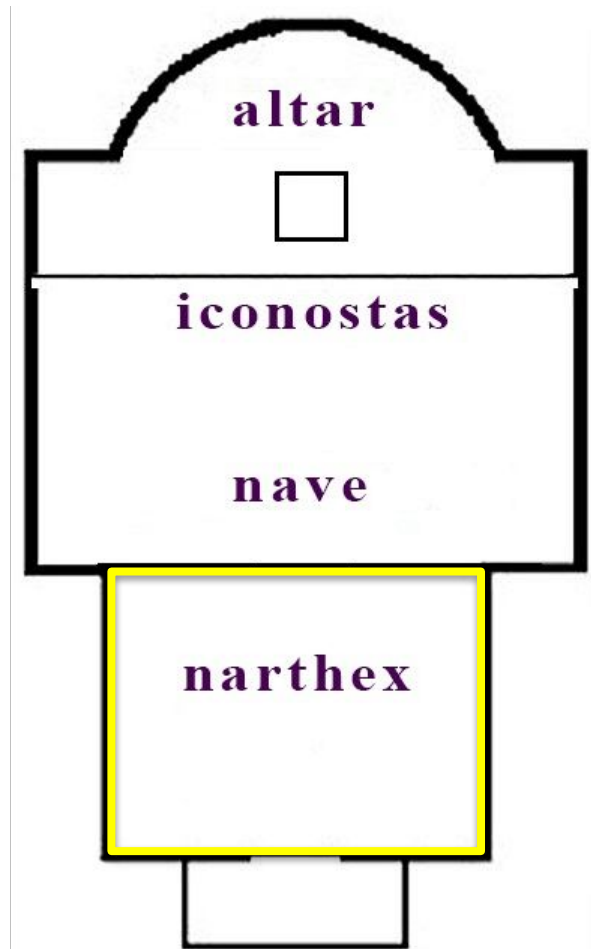
The Narthex

The Vestibule of the Church

Where we come to light candles for the living & the dead

Where we greet each other and prepare before entering the Nave

Where we congregate together after Liturgy



The layout of an Orthodox Church

Agape Meal “Love Feast”

“Agape” means God’s Love

Often referred to as “Trapeza” or a
“Refectory”

We come together after Liturgy in the
tradition of Jesus Christ’s Last Supper
with his Apostles to share lovingly in food
& drink.

Here we get to know our church
community better and build stronger
spiritual ties with each other through God.



The Nave

The Main Section of the Church

Also known as the “Ship” or “Ark”

Much like Noah’s Ark

Christ comes to save us in His Ship / Church

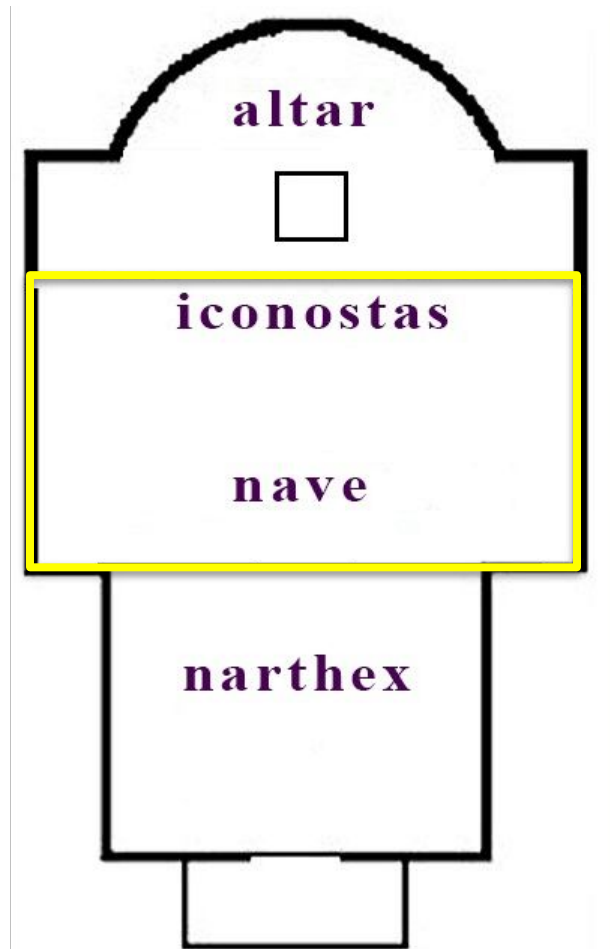
Where all the faithful come to worship together communally.

Traditionally everyone stands here during service and there are no pews/seats.

However in the United States, it is common to have seats in Orthodox Churches

The Choir sings here either in the balcony at the back of the Nave or in the front of the Nave in an area known as the Solaes next to the Iconostas.

The Dome is located in the center above the Nave



The layout of an Orthodox Church

The Dome

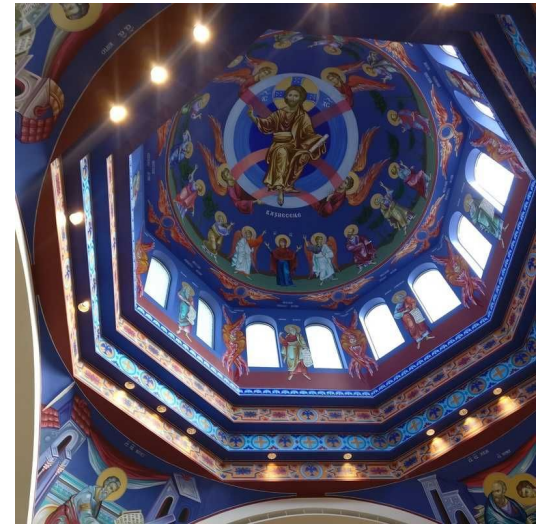
Recognizable feature in many Orthodox Churches

Depicts a the Holy Icon of Christ the Almighty (Pantocrator)

Jesus Christ is holding His Bible watching over us from Heaven as King and Blessing us here on Earth

Around him are His Angels and the Twelve Apostles

In the Four Corners, the Dome is supported by Icons of Evangelists Matthew, Luke, Mark, and John who wrote the Four Gospels that make up the Bible



The Iconostasis

Known as the Veil of the Church

Separates the Visible World (Earth) from the Invisible World (Heaven)

Has Holy Icons depicting the Saints and Life of Jesus Christ

Has Three Doors

Royal Door: the central door for the Priest to go between the Altar to the Nave

Angels' Doors: which allow the Deacons and Servers to aid the Priest during Liturgy between the Sanctuary and the Nave



Icons and Frescoes

Icon mean Image

In Orthodoxy, Icons are Holy Images that depict Holy People, Events, or Things that we venerate as Christians.

Frescoes are Icons that are painted on the walls all around the Church

Icons are like windows between Heaven & Earth which is why there are everywhere; we are reminded to look, think and pray into the Heavenly world as They are interceding for our World.

Icons are made by professional artists known as Iconographers



The Sanctuary

The Holiest Section of the Church

Separated by the Iconostas / Veil

Always faces East

We pray toward the direction where Christ will Return

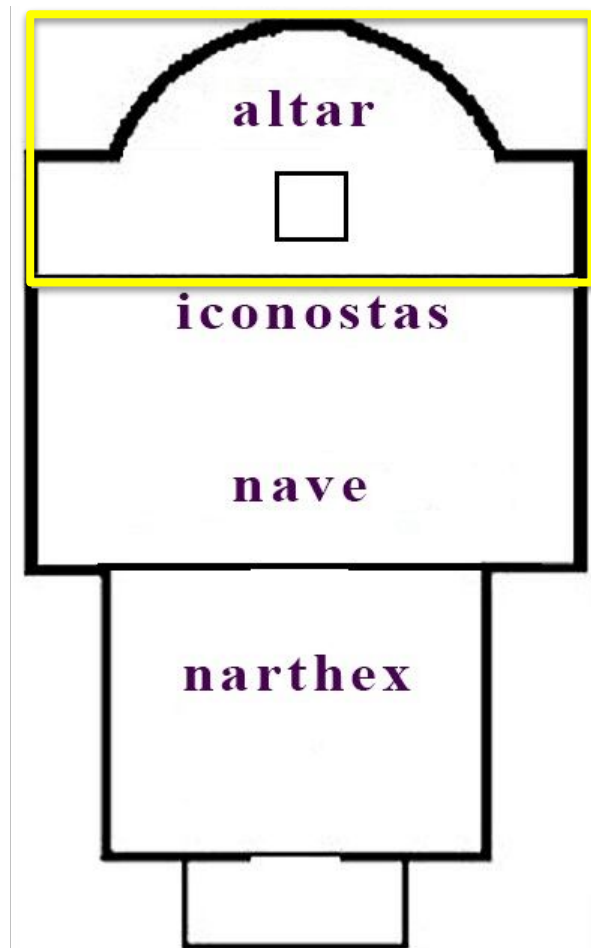
Represents where Heaven meets Earth

Houses the Altar

Where the Priest prepares Holy Communion

This is where the Priest leads the Liturgy

He is assisted by Deacons & Altar Servers who help the Priest with prayers, readings, and processions with the Bible and Communion.



The layout of an Orthodox Church

The Altar Table

The Holiest Place in the Church

All Churches must have an Consecrated Altar

Each Altar has a relic from a Holy Saint given by the Bishop

This is where we place the three Holiest Items of the Church

The Holy Bible

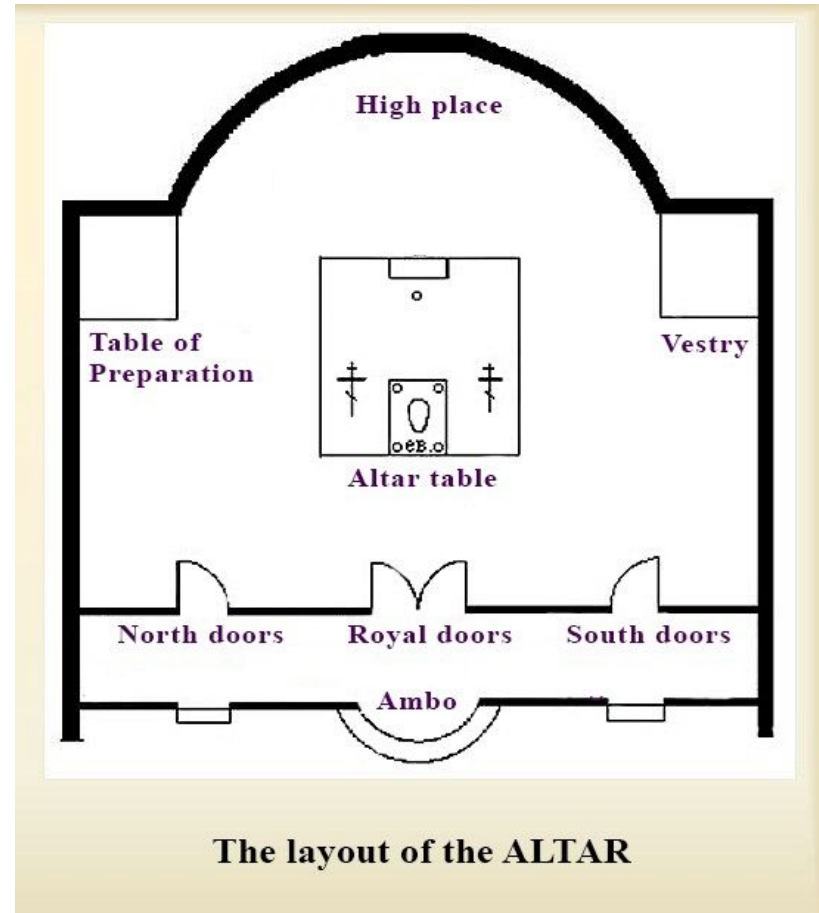
The Holy Cross

The Holy Communion

Only the Priest is allowed to serve in front of the Altar

Each Liturgy, the Priest prepares the Divine Gifts of Bread & Wine which are then consecrated for Holy Communion in the Chalice

When the Holy Communion is ready, the Priest then steps out of the Royal Doors and onto the Ambo where Communion is served to the Faithful





Tour of Saint Sava Temple in Belgrade

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS-h2xrrxd4>

