



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

March 5, 2023

To the reverend clergy, the esteemed presidents and members of the parish councils, and all the devout, Christ-loving faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey:

As we embark on our spiritual journey through Holy and Great Lent — a period of intensified prayer, deeper reflection and increased almsgiving — let us offer up thanksgiving to the Almighty for continuously providing us with opportunities to receive His bountiful heavenly blessings.

Continuing in the annual tradition of our Metropolis, I would like to request that on this first Sunday of Holy and Great Lent — the Sunday of Orthodoxy — a special collection tray be passed in every parish of this God-protected Metropolis, so as to benefit the Social Services program of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Society. This vital ministry continues to be of the utmost importance in offering much-needed assistance to less fortunate families and individuals who are dealing with exceptional difficulties and hardships in their lives.

Therefore, I encourage you wholeheartedly to offer as much as you can out of the abundance of your heart's generosity in order to support this all-important ministry. Your contributions will provide significant aid to the Metropolis Philoptochos Sisterhood, as they endeavor selflessly to fulfill their sacred duty and mission to assist all those in need. Through your participation in this venerable philanthropic program, you follow the teaching of St. John Chrysostom, the patron Saint of this Metropolis, who wrote in his 46th homily on the Gospel of Matthew that *"the greatest thing is charity, and moderation, and almsgiving."* And so, during this Lenten season, may we all become agents of philanthropy, compassion and understanding through our charitable sensitivity, our good works and our benevolent disposition toward our fellow brothers and sisters in need of our help.

Extending to all of you my archpastoral blessings and paternal prayers for a spiritually prosperous Holy and Great Lent, I remain

With paternal love in Christ,

+ ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America