



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 252/2025

**Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Sunday of Father's Day (the Sunday of All Saints)**

June 15, 2025

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

***Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι. (κατὰ Ματθαῖον 19:30)***  
***But many who are first shall be last, and the last first. (Matthew 19:30)***

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,


With the observance of Father's Day on this Sunday of All Saints, we also take an opportunity to remember the spiritual fathers of our parishes across the country. The clergy who lead our communities, more often than not, put themselves last, as they endeavor to serve every member of the community and to ensure that everyone feels valued. But as the Lord says in the Gospel Reading for this Sunday, the "last shall be first."

Therefore, with encouragement and with boldness, I offer this exhortation to every community and every member of our Sacred Archdiocese, to be generous to the special collection of this Sunday. For all the funds gathered are to be dedicated to augment and champion the Clergy Pension Fund, which is a vital element of our clergy support system, and a sign that their sacrifices of material goods for the spiritual benefit of their flocks are

duly and truly recognized. Clergy rarely put themselves first, even when their parishioners insist. So here is a way that every member of our Church can demonstrate their appreciation for their spiritual fathers on Father's Day. Every donation is valuable and welcomed with thankfulness.

On this Sunday of All Saints, let us celebrate those who teach us about the Saints and strive to lead us in their ways of holiness. Let us remember our clergy, and take an interest in sustaining them in their sunset years. In this way, the first and the last will be joined together in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and in accordance with the will of God!

With much paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "+ ΕΛΠΙΔΟΦΩΡΟΣ", written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America