



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 416/2026

**Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross**

September 14, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Presvyteres and Diakonisses, 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-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

*While you have the light, trust in the light, that you may become children of light.  
(John 12:36)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this present feast, we behold the Precious and Life-giving Cross of our Lord, the lampstand upon which He was exalted to be the *Light of the world*. The radiance of the Cross is the illuminating divine energy of God's love, God's mercy, and God's forgiveness for every sin and shortcoming of the human race. On the Cross—an instrument of unspeakable cruelty and hatred—our Lord Jesus Christ transformed all human suffering into a path toward happiness and eternal blissfulness.

While we yet await the General Resurrection, receiving the Lord's Arising and the Dormition of His Holy Mother as promissory notes for our everlasting salvation, we traverse the course of our lifetimes illuminated by the light rays of the Precious Cross. Each of us follows a path, the "*Way*," as our Faith was called in the days of the Apostles