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Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
November 8, 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:

Let brotherly love abide; forget not to welcome strangers: for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares.
(Hebrews 13:1-2)

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

On this Feast of the Bodiless Powers, when we celebrate the Archangels and the Nine Orders of the Angelic Host whom they command by the will of God, let us also remember the many angelic presences who come into our lives, also by the will of God. As the Apostle states, it is in the context of abiding fraternal love and through our practice of philoxenia – of welcoming and being hospitable to the strangers in our midst – that we come into contact with Angelic Beings.

This wondrous reality is mostly shielded from our understanding, as the Apostle says that we are unaware of their presence, even though they may be standing right in front of us. These "Angels unawares" come in many guises, and each one presents an opportunity for us to stretch our spiritual capacities and open our hearts wider. More times than we may believe, such angelic forces come to us in the persons of our elder