



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

October 1, 2026

Dear and much beloved Clergy of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey,

It is with sentiments of profound joy and thanksgiving to Almighty God that I write to inform you of the election of His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos as Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate today, Thursday, October 1.

Since 2019, His Eminence has served our Sacred Archdiocese with great poise and dedication. In his service as Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod, as well as through the many other ministries and responsibilities entrusted to his care, he has labored diligently and faithfully, always demonstrating a profound love for our Holy Church and a sincere devotion to Her clergy and faithful. Having witnessed his ministry firsthand throughout these years, I join with the clergy and laity of our Sacred Archdiocese in joyfully exclaiming «ΑΕΙΟΣ!» for this faithful hierarch of our Church.

Having myself served as Locum Tenens of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey, I give thanks to God for this period of archpastoral oversight that now gives way to a new chapter in the life of this beloved Metropolis. As of today, His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras is to be commemorated in all the divine services celebrated throughout the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey as its canonical shepherd. I commend him to your love, your prayers, and your wholehearted support as he prepares to assume the fullness of his new archpastoral ministry among you.

Please know that the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Theologian in Tenaflly, New Jersey at 11:00am. The following day, Sunday, November 8, he will celebrate his first Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral as Metropolitan of New Jersey.

Bestowing upon all of you my archiepiscopal blessings, I beseech our Lord to protect and strengthen you, keeping you under the wise spiritual care, guidance, and loving leadership of your new shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of New Jersey. May his archpastoral ministry among you be blessed and fruitful for many years to come, unto the glory of God and the edification of His Holy Church.

With paternal blessings and love in the Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

Locum Tenens of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey