GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

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Archiepiscopal Encyclical for Archon Sunday

November 22, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, 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 Sacred Archdiocese of America:

"Each one of us is a drop; the ocean is the Ecumenical Patriarchate."
(His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Great)

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

This thirty-fifth anniversary of the election and enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Great, the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, is not only an exceptional cause for joy among all Christians of good will but also a singular wellspring of pride and thanksgiving for the Archons of the Great Church of Christ. The Archons are among the many drops of our oceanic Ecumenical Patriarchate, and their activities create waves of positive energy for the spiritual ministries of the Mother Church. But let us remember that each of us is a drop – some larger, some smaller – that flows into the whole and is part of the greater reality of the Ecumenical Throne.

This year, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is celebrating "Archon Sunday" in advance of the Thronal Feast, and we ask that catechism teachers use the Archon Sprout Curriculum (https://archons.org/sprouts/), which focuses on the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition,

where there is a local Archon in the Parish, we hope they will give a five- to six-minute presentation from the Solea on the Mother Church of Constantinople to raise awareness of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his historic and unprecedented thirty-five-year patriarchal ministry.

Therefore, all parishes are urged to take time on Sunday, November 22, to recognize the Archons of the Great Church of Christ in their midst and to hear the good news of their own participation in the ocean of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Her depths are filled with peace and the confidence of the pure Faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Her waves will carry us all heavenward.

With Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ,



†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America