



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

Protocol No. 33/2025  
May 20, 2025

### **Confirming the Evangelical Spirit of our Holy Metropolis of Chicago**

To the Reverend Clergy and the Beloved Faithful of the Holy Metropolis of Chicago

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Earlier this year, I issued an encyclical (Prot. # 02/2025) reaffirming the Church's foundational mission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to welcome every person into the transforming light of Christ through prayer, catechesis, and sacramental initiation. At the heart of this mission is a return to the authentic spirit of the early Church—boldly evangelical, profoundly hospitable, and spiritually grounded in prayer.

Among the ancient and holy practices of our Orthodox Church is the offering of intercessory petitions and prayers for the catechumens—those who, with humility and hope, have entered the path of repentance and are preparing to be joined to Christ through Baptism and Chrismation. These expressions are not mere liturgical relics but vibrant acts of love that embody the Church's sacred responsibility for those seeking salvation.

Considering this, and following our initial directive to restore the petitions and prayers for the catechumens during Holy and Great Lent through Bright Week, I now affirm—after prayerful reflection and widespread consultation with clergy and laity across our Metropolis—that these petitions and prayers shall remain a regular and active part of the Divine Liturgy in all our parishes. Clergy are to offer the full sequence of these petitions and prayers audibly, beginning with the Litany of Fervent Supplication and continuing through the Second Prayer of the Faithful, so that all in attendance may be united in awareness and intercession.

This reintegration of these petitions and prayers is not only a return to the Church's sacred living tradition but also a tangible expression of our Metropolis' commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual renewal. As we lift the catechumens in our prayer, we remind ourselves that the Church exists not for herself, but for the life of the world. These intercessions are a stark reminder that the Church always reaches outward — welcoming those who seek Christ — and calls each of us to renew our own conversion.

As we recommit ourselves to this sacred practice, we must likewise affirm that praying for the catechumens does not diminish our concern for our friends and loved ones who have grown distant from the life of the Church. Nor does it lessen our responsibility toward those who fill our pews but long for renewal and deeper purpose. We pray for the newcomer. We pray for the