



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

March 27, 2020

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved Brothers,

In these recent days and weeks our nation and our local communities have been witnessing increasingly voluminous cases of COVID-19 which has produced devastating effects on a variety of levels. More and more individuals are becoming ill, people are shuttering themselves in their own homes, and numerous persons have lost their employment and their financial security. This is all in addition to the fact that the faithful have been kept away from gathering in their local Parish Communities in an abundance of caution for their safety and well-being so as to prevent the spread of this vicious virus.

Times such as these are unquestionably trying and profoundly difficult especially for Clergy as we contend with the multitude of issues that have stemmed from this crisis. The events which are continuously unfolding every day in rapid succession can cause some of you to lose heart, but I encourage you to stay strong in your faith and to reflect on the words of Psalmist when he says, **“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken”** (Ps. 62:5-6).

It is with these sagacious and spirit-inspired words that I implore you to bolster your faith by praying more intently for yourselves, for your Parish Communities, and for the world. Know that I am with you spiritually and I am praying for each of you intently that you may remain fervent in your faith and whereas we may find ourselves physically separated, we are nevertheless always united in prayer. We shall not face these challenges alone, but we shall confront them together.

My prayers on your behalf, on behalf of your families, and on behalf of all our devout faithful are ceaseless. I encourage you to remain strong in your faith and

devotion to Christ and His Church so that the devout faithful of your Parish Communities may emulate your example. Praying that our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the Physician and Protector of our souls and bodies, and His All-Holy Mother continue to guard and guide each of you, your families, and the devout faithful through these most turbulent times I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Metropolitan" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Evangelos" is written in a similar but slightly smaller script to its right.

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey