



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

February 24, 2026

To the Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy,
Distinguished Members of the Metropolis Council,
Beloved Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood,
Dedicated Members of the Parish Organizations, and
Devoted Orthodox Faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved in the Lord,

*“But since you excel in everything ~ in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness
and in the love we have kindled in you ~ see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*
~ 2 Corinthians 8:7

I hope and pray this letter finds you well as we embark on our spiritual journey through Holy and Great Lent, a period devoted to prayer, reflection, spiritual growth and philanthropy.

To that end, it is the tradition in our sacred Metropolis of New Jersey that every year on the first Sunday of Holy and Great Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, our parishes pass a special collection tray to benefit the philanthropic Social Services Program of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Ladies' Philoptochos Society. Please know that this Social Service program is truly instrumental for our Metropolis Philoptochos to continue to offer much needed assistance and support to less fortunate families and individuals, who are facing great hardships in their lives. Therefore, I request that all of you heed the words of St. Paul and “*excel in the grace of giving,*” by offering as generously as you are able, in support of this most important ministry of our Church. Your generous donations will greatly aid our Metropolis Philoptochos to fulfill its sacred philanthropic mission.

Praying that we experience the love and blessings of our Lord so that we may in turn share this His love with our neighbors this Holy and Great Lent, I remain

With Paternal Love & Blessings,

† Metropolitan Apostolos

†APOSTOLOS

Metropolitan of New Jersey