



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY  
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

The Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Societies, Faculty & Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved in the Lord,

The philanthropy of Almighty God enables us once again to worthily enter into the New Ecclesiastical Year, which by tradition commences on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September with the Feast of the Indiction, celebrated from ancient times. Through the Feast's sacred hymnology, the Church prays and beseeches our merciful God that He will bless the New Ecclesiastical Year from above. As we attempt in our daily lives to utilize our time most effectively, doing good and keeping the virtues of the Gospel and commandments of our Lord, the concept of time does indeed become most significant and very precious.

Indeed, we shall not be successful in living virtuously if God is not with us, present in our daily lives, thus, our Mother Church urges us to seek God's blessing throughout the entire New Ecclesiastical Year. As the summer season comes to a close, we embark on a new journey as the programs and activities of our Ecclesiastical and Community life begin. The Catechetical and Greek Schools commence and our children return, invigorated from the relaxation of summer, for another year of continued spiritual growth within the bosom of the Church, benefiting from the fruits of Hellenic Orthodox Education. Thus, as Chief Shepherd of this God-saved Holy Metropolis, I paternally exhort all of our parents to ensure that their children are registered for our Catechetical and Greek Schools, so that they may be equipped and enriched by the necessary tools, which are offered by our Church with much love and affection.

Filled with love, enthusiasm and accountability, let us all, with one spirit and heart, once again unite our resources and resolve, and implore our loving God that He grant unto us the Grace and blessing to succeed in our noble purpose and goals.

Invoking the Grace and Blessings of our Lord upon you and your families, and wishing you with all my heart a most blessed and fruitful New Ecclesiastical Year, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey