



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

May 21, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Due the devastating effects of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic, we have witnessed the interruption and cancellation of numerous Ecclesiastical and social events both within our own communities and in society at-large. Many of these events centered around the celebration of significant accomplishments and marked an opportunity for people to gather in jubilation. One such event which has been affected are the graduation ceremonies of high school seniors who, having finished their primary education, now prepare themselves to enter a new world. For some, this marks the beginning of a career and for others it marks the beginning of a more specialized education. With the present circumstances, however, the 2020 graduating high school students have generally been deprived of the opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey will be holding a Virtual High School Graduation Ceremony for all of the faithful Greek Orthodox Christian graduating high school seniors of the Class of 2020 from throughout our Holy Metropolis. This will offer us the opportunity as a spiritual family of Greek Orthodox Christians to come together, to recognize, and to celebrate their accomplishments. By honoring their well-deserve achievement, we can express our support for them as the Body of Christ as they embark on their new journeys. Details pertaining to the Virtual Graduation Ceremony such as the date, time, and other relevant

information will be communicated to the Parish Priest of each Community and to the devout faithful so that the graduates, their families, and all devout faithful can joyously participate in this significant celebratory event.

It is my sincerest hope and prayer that you will help join me in celebrating this auspicious occasion and show your support for our beloved young adults. Although we are not able to celebrate with them in person, let us fervently pray that our Lord will guide them and guard them as they enter this new phase of their young lives. Praying that our Loving Lord protects and guards our graduates, their families, and each one of you, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M'.

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