



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

June 23, 2022

Unto the Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

I greet you with abundant joy and gratitude to Almighty God for the praiseworthy endeavor of rebuilding the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church – the only House of Worship destroyed on September Eleventh – as a Shrine for the Nation. The now resurrected Saint Nicholas National Shrine will be consecrated in this year of its completion – the One Hundredth Anniversary of the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as the premier Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

I invite all the devout clergy and dedicated faithful of our sacred Archdiocese on the Fourth of July for the Consecration of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, the ancient rite of dedication of the Sanctuary for its purpose to be a House of Prayer for all People. The Orthros will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Consecration Service will begin at 9:30 a.m.

This is a great moment for the Greek Orthodox People of America, for the City of New York, and for the American Nation. I hope that you can join on this day when we celebrate our Independence Day and the freedom that has brought about the rebuilding of this Church, a sign that the hatred perpetrated against our way of life and which so unjustly took the lives of nearly 3,000 of our fellow citizens will not stand. “Nicholas” means the “Victory of the People,” and I hope you can be part of this triumph when we consecrate the Church, remembering all those whose lives were lost in our perpetual ministry of faith, hope, and love.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America