



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

June 26, 2020

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

My Beloved,

I pray this letter finds you well, both physically and spiritually, experiencing all of our Lord's abundant blessings.

As our states and Ecclesiastical Communities gradually return to some of the norms that existed prior to the devastating effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, we too must look towards resuming certain aspects of Parish life for the benefit of the devout faithful and all the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey. Therefore, I hereby authorize the following:

1. Parish offices may officially reopen providing that all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding social distancing and proper sanitizing are followed.
2. In person meetings of the Parish Council, Philoptochos Sisterhood, and Committees/Organizations of the Parish Community may resume providing that attendees observe proper social distancing and sanitizing guidelines are followed.
3. For those Communities that rent their Community Hall, rentals are permitted to resume. A clause is to be added to rental agreements which requires the renter to abide by all local, state, and federal social distancing and safety guidelines. Furthermore, a clause is to be added stating that the renter assumes liability should anyone who participated in an event contract COVID-19.

As we look forward to the days, weeks, and months ahead, let us continue to have faith in God's Divine Providence since we know that, even in these difficult times, *"God is with us."* Let us always keep in our hearts and minds the words of Holy Scripture, *"Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Josh. 1:9). Praying that our Lord continues to guard and guide each of you, your families, and your Parish Communities, 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 with a large initial 'M'.

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