



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Liturgical Directives – April 6, 2020

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

Dear Fathers,

I pray this letter finds you well and in good health both physically and spiritually as we approach Holy and Great Week.

The distressing effects of the COVID-19 virus has consumed society and has caused great difficulty for both clergy and laity especially as we approach this most Sacred time of the Ecclesiastical Year. This has caused a number of questions to be raised regarding pastoral and practical matters. Therefore, to address some of these concerns, I hereby issue the following directives:

- 1) The Sacrament of Holy Confession is NOT to be communicated via telephone or by email.
- 2) There is to be no distribution of Palms, Holy Unction, candles, flowers, the Holy Light, or the blessed during the course of the Divine Services of Great and Holy Week and Pascha.
- 3) The Divine Services of Great and Holy Week will still take place, as prescribed by the Church. All Parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey shall follow the same schedule for these services. The details of the schedule will be discussed tomorrow during the conference call.

These measures are critically important to ensuring the physical and spiritual well-being of the devout faithful, while still allowing them to participate in the celebration of the Divine Services of Holy Week and Pascha. Praying that our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to guard and bless you, your families, and your Ecclesiastical Communities during these most challenging times I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† EVANGELOS

Metropolitan of New Jersey