



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ Γ.Ο.Χ. ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
HELLENIC ORTHODOX TRADITIONALIST CHURCH OF AMERICA
HOLY METROPOLIS G.O.C. AMERICA

November 13/26, 2023

✠ St. John Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople

Directive on Parish Contributions to the Holy Metropolis of America for 2023

Dear Fathers and Children in Christ,

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Apostle Paul, as we read in Scripture, undertook several collections in the various local churches established by him, for the benefit of the Church of Jerusalem. He described the collection as an act of Grace for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 8:19), and also as a ministry for the Saints (2 Corinthians 9:1), inasmuch as the funds collected by the Churches of Achaea, Macedonia, Galatia, and Asia would support the pastoral and philanthropic ministry of the Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God and first Bishop of the Church of Jerusalem—the Mother of all Churches.

In a similar manner, when we contribute to the common needs of our Holy Metropolis, we participate in the same act of Grace. We act for the glory of the Lord and minister unto the Saints inasmuch as we support the pastoral and philanthropic works of the Hierarchs of the Church of God.

As you know, our Holy Metropolis has many needs. The geographic vastness of her jurisdiction and the great distances between her parishes require us to commit much time and many funds to the ministry of the faithful, bringing spiritual consolation and pastoral guidance to congregations often isolated and alone. This ministry requires your continued support both in prayer and in funds.

G.O.C. Metropolis Headquarters
106 Elm Street
Cobleskill, NY 12043

To this end, we direct the parish clergy and the parish councils of the Holy Metropolis of America to see that each parish fulfill its annual contribution to the central fund of our divinely-saved Holy Metropolis by the end of the civil year 2023, December 18/31.

As in the past, each parish is to contribute annually \$125 USD for each household enrolled in the parish membership. Parishes that wish to adjust their contribution because of a special need may do so in consultation with me.

In addition, our Holy Metropolis has several structural needs. Specifically, the Metropolis Headquarters, dedicated to St. Chrysostomos the New, requires numerous repairs and renovations that are nearly beyond our current means. Also, the vehicle that we use to travel across the country to make our parish visits is not suitable for the long drives required, especially for driving in harsh weather conditions. We, therefore, instruct all parishes to conduct a special fundraiser for these needs during the civil month of December 2023.

All the annual contributions should be made payable to "Metropolis of America" and should be earmarked as "2023 Parish Contribution". The special funds raised during December are also to be made payable as above. Those donations should be specified as "December Fundraiser".

"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6), according to the Apostle of the Nations. Let us, therefore, take to heart the example of earliest Christians, giving eagerly for the ministry of the Saints, that we may reap the fullness of the bounty of Grace in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May God make all grace abound toward you, granting "that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (2 Corinthians 9: 8)

Your fervent suppliant before the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Demetrius of America". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

✠ Metropolitan Demetrius of America