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Archbishop Elpidophoros Attends Festal Great Vespers for the Feast of the New Indiction



Among over one hundred hierarchs, monastics, and clergy, on August 31, 2024, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America attended the Festal Great Vespers for the Feast of the New Indiction, which His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presided over at the Cathedral of the Presentation of the Theotokos in Stavrodromi, Istanbul, Türkiye. The Feast of the Indiction, which will take place tomorrow, September 1, marks the beginning of the Eastern Orthodox Church's calendrical cycle, or the Ecclesiastical New Year.

Following tonight's service, clerical and lay worshippers, including Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Giorgos Kotsiras and Consul General of Greece in Constantinople Konstantinos Koutras, joined the opening of the cathedral's newly-renovated rooms. President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Stavrodromi George Papaliaris welcomed guests to the cathedral, and His All-Holiness offered remarks as well. In his absence, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco accepted a gift from His All-Holiness on behalf of Archon Offikialios of the Great Church of Christ George Marcus, whose donation funded the restoration.

After His All-Holiness held the Agiasmos Service, or Blessing of Holy Water, he officially opened the renovated rooms for the cathedral guests to explore. The adjacent building, first constructed for monastic and clerical use in 1560, was destroyed by a fire in 1978. Thanks to the generosity of Archon Marcus, however, the Greek Orthodox Community of Stavrodromi can once again host pilgrims and guests.

Outside, attendees filled the church courtyard, celebrating the restoration and the new space for community it will provide by enjoying food and drink, live music, and the lively company of fellow faithful.

Photos: GOARCH/Dimitrios Panagos.

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