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Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
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Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels
Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
November 10, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, 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 Holy Archdiocese of America:

And there was no one who stood with me against them, except Michael, your prince. (Daniel 10:21)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the visions of the Prophet Daniel, Archangel Michael is revealed as a powerful force for good and protection against every possible evil. If you look through the Holy Scriptures, you will read of Angels appearing in all manner of places — sometimes in numbers that even defy the imagination. But we should always bear in mind that “Angel” means “messenger,” someone who is delivering to us an important communication from the Heavenly Realm.

Every year, on November 8, we celebrate the Synaxis of the Holy Angels — all Nine Ranks of them, who are led by their Chief Commanders, Michael and Gabriel. At the same time, we take time to remember Saint Michael’s Home, our Archdiocesan Institution that cares for the elderly. Archangel Michael is considered the residents’ special protector and guardian, who stands with them in this life and the next.

This year, let us all consider a donation — of any size — to Saint Michael’s Home in order to support the generation that came before us. Holy Scripture speaks of a moment when Archangel Michael was the only one to take a stand and make a defense. But the message is clear, all of us can take our place with the Holy Archangel to become an impenetrable wall of support and prayer for our aged. And in doing so, we will contribute to the construction of the new walls that will house and protect our elderly at the new Saint Michael’s Home.

With paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "Ὁ Ἀμερικανὸς Ἐπισκοπὸς", which translates to "The Archbishop of America". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style with dark ink.

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

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