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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago launches COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago announced today the creation of a COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund to support parishes under significant financial distress as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund will provide direct financial assistance to parishes in urgent need as determined by a special committee established by the Metropolis. **100% of the monies donated will flow directly to parishes.** The Metropolis will provide updates on monies collected and distributed, and the Fund will be included in the annual independent audit of the Metropolis' financial statements.

"Saint Paul reminds us that our baptism in Christ makes us all members of His Body. And so, when one member of the body suffers, all suffer together," said His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. "Given that some of our parishes are more vulnerable than others, our collective focus must be to come together as the local Body of Christ and support the parishes in our Holy Metropolis that are experiencing the most financial distress."

Parishes seeking financial assistance from the Fund will be required to submit written requests, supported by financial disclosures, outlining current and anticipated operating losses. Beyond administering the Fund, the Metropolis also intends to work with its parishes to help them develop programs to cultivate more sustainable, long-term financial support and to implement stewardship best practices. **Donations to the Fund can be made HERE.**

"Though we must remain separated due a contagious virus, we cannot overlook the invitation to grow closer as a spiritual community and remain united as the Body of

Christ. I can think of no greater need at this time as we approach Holy Week," His Eminence said.

— Source: chicago.goarch.org