

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America issues Encyclical for New Year



The Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, issued a pastoral encyclical for the coming New Year, where he noted that “...We are greeting the New Year of the Grace of our Lord, even as we share the long-suffering of our Lord that has strained our hearts and souls in the year that is behind us. We salute the New Year with faith — with hope for a brighter tomorrow. We welcome the New Year with the same confidence, which knows that each passing day now possesses just a shard, just a hint of more light, even though the days of January seem darker than ever”.

The encyclical reads:

Archbishop Elpidophoros’ Encyclical on the New Year

January 1, 2021

Ὁ ἐν τῇ ἀφάτῳ σου μακροθυμία καταξιώσας ἡμᾶς εἰς νέον ἐνιαυτὸν εἰσελθεῖν·

αὐτὸς πανάγαθε Δέσποτα, τὴν εἴσοδον ταύτην τῇ θείᾳ σου χάριτι εὐλόγησον.
(Εὐχὴ τῆς Δοξολογίας ἐπὶ τῇ Πρώτῃ τοῦ Νέου ἔτους)

O All-Good Master, by Your ineffable longsuffering You have vouchsafed us to enter into the New Year, bless this entrance with Your Divine Grace. (Prayer of the Doxology for the First of the New Year)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America,

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

We are greeting the New Year of the Grace of our Lord, even as we share the longsuffering of our Lord that has strained our hearts and souls in the year that is behind us. We salute the New Year with faith, with hope for a brighter tomorrow. We welcome the New Year with the same confidence which knows that each passing day now possesses just a shard, just a hint of more light, even though the days of January seem darker than ever.

Likewise, we know that the pandemic will come to an end, and that we shall return to our lives, but perhaps not as exactly as they once were.

May this re-entry into our lives be blessed!

My dear Christians, the past year has prepared us for this New Year of 2021; that we might never again take our families and friends for granted, that we might think of the suffering of others above our own, that we might see in the midst of the obstacles to our way of worship, the light of Christ that lights our hearts, if we would but turn our attention there.

On this First Day of the New Year, eight days after the Nativity, we commemorate the Naming of the Lord, and Saint Basil the Great. The Lord was given the Name that is above every other name, Jesus, as was revealed by the Angel. This is the Name by which we have been appointed to be saved from sin, fear, and death. Saint Basil the Great reminds us that it is through manifest love for our fellow human beings and compassion for the suffering of others that our faith works unto this salvation in our hearts, and awareness in our minds. Thus, the Holy Archdiocese continues this saving work institutionally at the Saint Basil Academy, where love and compassion are extended to those in need.

As we enter this New Year of the Grace of our Lord, may we truly be blessed by His love that we may be a blessing to others, and thus may we all be granted a healthy, safe and fulfilling New Year of 2021.

With paternal love in Christ Jesus,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America