

My brothers and sisters in the household of God,

I thank you for your dedication and commitment to your Parishes and the Christian example that you set for the faithful. In a few months, our Metropolis will have the distinct honor of hosting the 44th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of our Archdiocese from July 1-5, 2018, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Concurrently the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society will convene its Biennial National Convention.

The Congress, which is the first to be held in our Metropolis since 1988, is co-chaired by Peter J. Bassett and Michael S. Sophocles of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston. They are supported by a Host Committee whose honorary Chairman is our beloved Arthur Anton, Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is my sincere hope that your Parish and Philoptochos will attend and actively participate in the Congress as the Archdiocese convenes around the most important theme based on the words of the Lord treasured in the Gospel of Mark, "All things are possible for the one who believes." (Mark 9:23).

As His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America wrote, "as Orthodox Christians we affirm our faith in Christ, a faith that makes the impossible possible, the unreachable reachable, the non-achievable achievable. We know that our faith in Him leads us in our worship and ministry. We are also led by the example of our Lord in seeing the limitless possibilities of our faith. His life and ministry show us that belief in Him leads to healing, renewal and hope. Belief in Christ defeats the power of sin and death, transfigures our lives, and leads us on the path of salvation."

The Congress will begin with a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Boston on July 1st. The official opening of the Congress will take place the next morning, Monday July 2nd, with the Keynote Address of Archbishop Demetrios at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

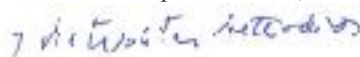
During the Clergy Laity Congress and the National Ladies Philoptochos Convention, the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council, the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres, the Retired Greek Orthodox Clergy of America, the Order of Saint Andrew - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians will also be convening.

A highlight of the Congress is Hellenic College Holy Cross Day which will afford delegates and their families the opportunity to visit the campus and participate in tours, seminars, workshops and presentations.

A more detailed schedule will be made available at a later date and will be published in the Orthodox Observer, the Archdiocese web-site www.goarch.org and at www.clergylaity.org. Attendees may book hotel reservations by visiting www.clergylaity.org/hotel. The Boston Marriott Copley Place is conveniently located in the heart of Boston's Back Bay and is easily accessible by public transportation (MBTA subway and Commuter Rail) and Amtrak service via Back Bay Station. Parking is also available at the hotel.

Looking forward to sharing fellowship at the Congress, I pray that our Lord continue to bless you with every heavenly gift.

With Archpastoral love,



METHODIOS

Metropolitan of Boston

Orthodox Christian Celebration Of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening according to the order

prescribed in the Triodion. Scripture readings for Palm Sunday are: At the Vespers: Genesis 49:1,8-12; Zephaniah 3:14-19; Zechariah 9:9-15. At the Orthros (Matins): Matthew 21:1-17. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18.

On this Sunday, in addition to the Divine Liturgy, the Church observes the Blessing and Distribution of the Palms. A basket containing the woven palm crosses is placed on a table in front of the icon of the Lord, which is on the Iconostasion. The prayer for the blessing of the Palms is found in the Ieratikon or the Euxologion. According to the rubrics of the Typikon, this prayer is read at the Orthros just before the Psalms of Praise (Ainoi). The palms are then distributed to the faithful. In many places today, the prayer is said at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, before the apolysis. ***The text of the prayer, however, indicates clearly that it is less a prayer for the blessing of the palms, even though that is its title, and more a blessing upon those, who in imitation of the New Testament event hold palms in their hands as symbols of Christ's victory and as signs of a virtuous Christian life.*** It appears then, that it would be more correct to have the faithful hold the palms in their hands during the course of the Divine Liturgy when the Church celebrates both the presence and the coming of the Lord in the mystery of the Eucharist.



APPROACHING PASCHA

Great and Holy Friday Retreat

Under the direction of our church school our parish will be hosting a Great and Holy Friday Retreat. The retreat will begin with arrival at 1130am. Following arrival will be a welcome lunch. The retreat will



conclude at the completion of the Un-Nailing Service which will begin at 230pm. We encourage all parents and grandparents to be at this service and to pray with your young ones; service should end by 4pm We ask that parents register online or to talk with their Church School teacher.

Flower Girls on Great and Holy Friday

We are asking for girls in our parish family from 3rd to 6th to participate

in this beautiful tradition. The flower girls (known as myrophores) represent the myrrhbearing women who came to the tomb to anoint the Body of Christ. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL GIRLS WHO ARE PLANNING TO BE FLOWERGIRLS SHOULD WEAR A WHITE DRESS AND WHITE SHOES.** If you would like to have your daughter take part in service on Great and Holy Friday evening, please contact the Church office.



Pascha Reception

After the Resurrection Service and following The Divine Liturgy on Pascha, everyone is invited to come into the Church Hall and enjoy the fellowship as one family. This event is being sponsored by the Parish Council to thank all the faithful stewards of Christ's Church for your love and support. If you would like to assist in this fellowship hour, please contact a Parish Council Member.

Vespers of Love Service: Readers Needed

On Pascha at the Vespers of Love (Agape Service) the Gospel reading is to be proclaimed in as many languages as possible. If you can read a foreign language and would like to take part in this beautiful service of our Church, please contact Fr. Demetri.



Pascha Egg Hunt: Organizer Needed

IF someone comes forward to organize this event, there will be an egg hunt for the young people of our parish following the Vespers of Love on Pascha Sunday. Please remember that the Vespers of Love (Agape Service) is a short Vespers Service lasting about 50 minutes. Since this service is not a Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion will not be distributed.



Vespers of Love



Please be with us for this beautiful service in which the Gospel Passage is read in as many languages as possible. We have text for the following languages..

Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Latvian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian

If you are able to read one or more of the above languages (or if you can read a language that is not mentioned above) please contact the Church office at 781 882 8453 or by emailing at st.nicholas.lex@verizon.net