



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 579/2025

**Archebiscopal Encyclical on the New Year of 2026**

January 1, 2026

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 Sacred Archdiocese of America:

***O Redeemer, grant unto all a fruitful year!  
(Kontakion of the Indiction for the First of the New Year)***

Beloved sisters and brothers in the Lord,

In this New Year of 2026, we are encountering times and seasons of remarkable growth for our Church and for our personal lives and families. We pray that our efforts will be fruitful, and that they will bear many different kinds of harvests in our lives, both spiritual and material. The technological advances accelerating throughout our culture present many challenges, but also many opportunities. Now, more than ever, we need the wisdom of our Orthodox faith to guide our decisions for our families and for our Church, as to how to employ these advances for the good of our souls and for the good of the world.

With this in mind, I call on every member of our Sacred Archdiocese to become invested in the forthcoming Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland, Ohio (June 30 – July 2, 2026), where we will gather under the inspiring theme, “Rise and Build,” to heed the exhortation of the Prophet Nehemiah to the People of Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the Holy City:

*Ἀναστῶμεν καὶ οἰκοδομήσωμεν. Καὶ ἐκραταιώθησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτῶν εἰς ἀγαθόν.*

*Let us arise and build. And their hands were strengthened for the good work. (2:18)*

Whether in person or virtually, the Clergy-Laity Congress will address the needs and opportunities of our Institutions and Parishes. Among these, of course, is Saint Basil Academy, which has been forging ahead with innovative and exciting designs to bring its mission into even sharper focus. On this day, the First of the New Year, when we celebrate the memory of the Great Hierarch, Ascetic and Theologian of Caesarea, Basil the Great, let us all consider how we might support the Academy as it considers its future. May the intercessions of Saint Basil be with you all as you embrace the New Year of 2026, and may it bear fruit for you in your lives and in the lives of all those you love.

With paternal blessings in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America