



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 515/2025

Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
November 8, 2025 (issued November 9th)

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Presvyteres and Diakonisses, 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 foremost of the Angels, as a secondary light of the Trinity, Prince Michael, you have been revealed to us who faithfully praise you. (Kanon 3, Ode 3)

Beloved sisters and brothers in the Lord,

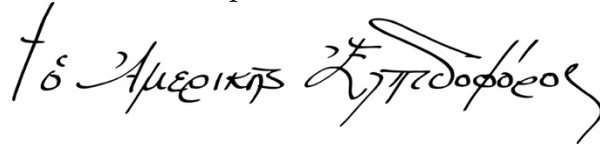
On the Feast of the Archangels, we sing of them as second lights to the Divine Energies of the Most Holy Trinity, which is the Source of all illumination. One of the great ascetics of the Faith, Saint John of Climacus once wrote: “Angels are a light to monastics, and monastics are a light to everyone.” Meaning that absolute Angelic attention and obedience to God reveal a vision for life that shines with a brilliance that lights up the world — much like the life of Saint Nektarios of Aegina, whose feast coincides with this present Encyclical. And yet, Angels are but secondary lights, in comparison to the “True Light, the Word, Who enlightens every person coming into the world” (John 1:9).

In our communities, we behold much wisdom and illumination from our elderly parishioners, whose lifetimes of experience have granted them insights that often elude their younger counterparts. As such, they, too, are a form “secondary lights” across our

Archdiocese, since their sagacity and discernment are often revelatory to those who are willing to consult with them and listen to their wise advice.

As we consider these secondary lights throughout our communities, then, let us also consider our Sacred Archdiocese's loving Institution that cares for the elderly, Saint Michael's Home. It represents a repository of faith, wisdom and experience that is always available to us — if we will just be willing to stand in its light. Like "angel unawares" (Hebrews 13:2), the elderly are with us to help guide us through dark times with the inner light of their souls. I pray that you will consider supporting Saint Michael's Home in order to keep that light shining in a wonderful place that honors this legacy, and as a reminder to keep the lights on in our own spiritual houses.

With much paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to be "+ ELPIDOPHOROS" with a stylized flourish at the end.

+ ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America