



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Encyclical for the New Year

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Societies, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

January 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of the New Year affords us the opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanksgiving and appreciation to Almighty God for all of the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. At the same time, we beseech our Heavenly Father that the New Year 2012 will be a year filled with peace, divine blessings and spiritual prosperity, not only for ourselves individually, but for our Church Communities, which constitute and represent the center and focal point of our religious life and worship truly our families.

On this day, we also commemorate a host of Saints and events in the life of our Church. Chief among them is Saint Basil the Great and the event of our Lord's Circumcision. These Saints and events are often over looked, because of worldly celebrations that seek to supplant the Ecclesiastical celebrations. I cannot urge all of you enough to dedicate yourselves whole-heartedly to our beloved Greek Orthodox Faith at the beginning of this New Year.

My beloved, it is only with God's divine assistance that all things are possible, *"for if God is with us, who can be against us."* (Rom. 8:31) Let us once again therefore be reminded of St. Paul's words: *"be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 4:6-7) In this manner, the New Year shall be a year of divine blessings for us and for our families.

It is my fervent prayer that this coming year will be a year of spiritual rejuvenation and recommitment to the Sacred work of Christ and His Holy Church, all of which will lead to the realization of our optimistic dreams and sacred goals. Wishing upon all of you a most blessed and peaceful New Year 2012, I remain,

With Love and Paternal Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S  
Metropolitan of New Jersey