



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

January 2010

The 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, HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010!

On this the first day of the New Year 2010, *which the Lord has made*, I paternally greet all of you and pray that you *“rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.”* (Phil. 4:4)

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 manifold blessings that He has bestowed upon us. At the same time, we beseech our Heavenly Father that the New Year 2010 will be a year filled with peace, divine blessings and spiritual prosperity, not only for ourselves individually, but for our Church Communities and especially for our greater global Community, which is often caught up in turmoil and dissention.

Upon the dawning of each New Year, all of us take time to reflect upon the past and look hopefully towards the future. Important decisions are made and new goals are set forth for the year, with the fervent prayer that everything will come to pass harmoniously and to our benefit. Thus, we should be thankful to our Heavenly Father for blessing us with every good thing as He knows what is in our best interest. For He sent us the most precious gift possible, His Only Begotten Son, who took on human flesh and who was born into the world so that we may receive from Him and through His Teachings the divine message of love, compassion, reconciliation and sacrifice.

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 the Apostle Paul's exhortation: *"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.

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the day in which we also honor our Father among the Saints and Ecumenical Teacher, Saint Basil the Great, who provides us with an example of a life devoted entirely to Christ and the dissemination of His Gospel to all peoples. St. Basil defended the Orthodox faith fervently, was a pioneer in establishing orphanages and distributing charity to the least amongst us, and was a humble servant of the Lord and Shepherd of many who would follow the monastic life. In the year 2010, St. Basil's works and teachings are most relevant and serve to inspire us to be Orthodox Christians to the fullest and apostles of the Truth to all who seek to discover Orthodoxy.

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 2010, I remain

With Love and Paternal Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evagelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey

*To be read from the pulpit on January 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>*