

## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

September 18, 2020

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Dear Fathers,

I pray this letter finds you well, both spiritually and physically, experiencing all of our Lord's bountiful blessings.

The past several months have been extraordinarily challenging for our families, friends, and communities in the face of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Above all, our Ecclesiastical Communities have endured many hardships due to restrictions and regulations set forth by local, county, and state governments as well as the regulations set forth by the CDC.

As the Ecclesiastical year begins, many parishioners have had questions regarding the status of Parish sports activities and the usage of Parish gymnasiums for sporting events and sports practices. The regulations and restrictions of the states in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey currently do not allow for Parish gymnasiums to be used for sports activities. Therefore, the usage of Parish gymnasiums for sports activities is hereby prohibited in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey until further notice.

It is my most fervent prayer that our Lord has mercy upon us and alleviates us of the Coronavirus Pandemic so that our Churches may open without limitations and our Communities may be able to engage in these most important ministries without restrictions. Praying that our loving Lord continues to guard and guide you and your ministry to His Church, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

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