

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

March 8, 2020

To Be Read from the Pulpit and Printed in the Bulletin

Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Members of the Parish Council, and Beloved Faithful:

Greetings and blessings to you in the Name of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I pray that, having completed the first week of the fast, you have been strengthened by the beautiful services and fasting discipline in order to complete the rest of this holy journey.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a day of triumph of correct doctrine over error and of truth over falsehood, of right over wrong. Sadly, in our current world, error too often trumps truth, falsehood overshadows correct doctrine and right and wrong are mixed up in the name of “love” of “political correctness” of “inclusiveness” and other well-intentioned, but misguided theology and secular laws. Therefore, each year on this day, it is meet and right that we ask the faithful to contribute towards the education and formation of our young men studying for the holy priesthood so that they may both teach defend the faith “once and for all delivered to the saints” to our faithful and as witnesses to the world.

It is been a long-standing tradition in our archdiocese to give scholarships to our seminarians studying for the priesthood. They are answering a high-calling and giving of themselves to serve others. This often entails leaving family and friends behind along with their secular employment. As such, this is the least we can do to thank them for giving of themselves and to make sure that they enter this sacred ministry as debt-free as possible so that they may serve all of you without this additional distraction and burden. As you are undoubtedly aware, the cost of education continues to rise. We therefore ask that you give generously to keep our seminarian scholarship account well-funded so that we might, in turn, provide for those who will someday provide for and serve all of you.

Wishing you all a holy and spirit-building Fast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is stylized and includes a flourish at the end.

+JOSEPH

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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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