

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

March 23, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved in the Lord,

I pray this letter finds you all well as we continue our Spiritual Journey through Holy and Great Lent.

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic which has been the cause for great concern, I regretfully have decided that it is imperative to postpone the 2020 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention for the protection and benefit of our faithful participants. The new dates of the 2020 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention are Monday, October 19 – Tuesday, October 20, 2020, provided that, God willing, the crisis is over and the appropriate legal authorities permit larger gatherings by this time.

For overnight accommodations, a block of rooms has been reserved for our use at the <u>Saddle Brook Marriott Hotel</u> located at the intersection of the GSP and I-80 (138 New Pehl Avenue). In order to secure the rate of <u>\$129.00 + tax per night</u> rooms <u>must be reserved by September 15, 2020</u>. For reservations please call 1-800-832-6254 or 201-843-9500 and mention "GOMNJ 2020 Assembly Account." For further information regarding the hotel please visit the hotel's website at <u>www.Marriott.com/EWRSB</u>

As our nation and the world continues to grapple with the difficulties of confronting this harsh virus, let us remain prayerful that the efforts of the men and women of the medical and pharmaceutical field advance quickly so that treatments may be discovered, a vaccine may be created, and the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing process for everyone may begin in earnest. Praying that our loving Lord protects each and every one of you during these difficult times, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

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