

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 2022

Beloved Antiochian Women throughout our God-Protected Archdiocese:

Many blessings to you and your families as we approach the start of Great Lent, that beautiful season of repentance and renewal.

For many years now, March has been dedicated to recognizing your important contributions to the life of our parishes and our archdiocese. What an appropriate time for us to emphasize the role of women in our Church! Later this month we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, when the Virgin Mary learned that she would bear the Savior of the World and said “Yes” to God’s plan for her. She accepted this role with faith and courage and remained faithful to her Son through all the difficulties that followed, enduring the sword that Righteous Symeon foretold would pierce her own soul also (Luke 2:35).

In imitation of the Most-Holy Theotokos, you now accept the ministries entrusted to you and persevere in them with faith and love, and it is right for us to acknowledge this not just for one month but throughout the year. On behalf of our archdiocese, I thank you for all your good works: from fundraising for archdiocesan projects to assisting those in unfortunate circumstances; from cooking for parish events to providing spiritual nourishment by sponsoring retreats.

This year we have as our annual-project theme “Reflecting on the Past—Building for the Future.” It focuses on the next phases of development at the Antiochian Village, which you have been working to support for a few years now: a new cathedral (with a crypt for our deceased hierarchs and a shrine to house the holy relics of St. Raphael of Brooklyn), a residence for our hierarchs when they retire, an independent/assisted living facility, and a monastery on a secluded part of the property. This project will bless many future generations and will stand as a monument to your loving generosity, along with that of many others throughout our archdiocese.

As we begin our Lenten journey, I pray that each of you will be spiritually strengthened to accomplish the course of the Fast with humility and love for one another. May it strengthen your resolve to continue working together in harmony for the glory of God and the good of the Church, doing your best and never giving up.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

**+JOSEPH**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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