

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

September 7, 2021

Dear Reverend Clergy and Esteemed Members of our Parish Councils,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord!

We have all watched with concern and sadness as Hurricane Ida cut a path of destruction across our land. From the pounding winds and rain of its landfall in Louisiana to the recent flooding in New York and New Jersey, this storm has led to much suffering. Homes and businesses have been damaged, and lives have been tragically cut short. Let us all pray fervently to our good and saving God for the affected families and communities, that they might “find hope under His wings” (Ps. 90:4).

The Apostle John, the beloved disciple, exhorts us: “If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17–18). It is incumbent upon us as servants of God, who “is love” (1 John 4:8), to demonstrate love in a practical way to those who are suffering.

This duty is all the more pressing when those suffering are part of our spiritual family, our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox faith, members of our Archdiocese. We have received word that our parish in Metairie (New Orleans) has sustained some damage and that some of its parishioners have even lost their homes. Therefore, I call upon all our parishes to take a special collection for those who have suffered losses from this storm. Once you have had a chance to collect all donations, please forward one check from your parish to the Archdiocese (memo: “Hurricane Relief”)—in any event, no later than end of this month. All donations will go directly to those in need.

Asking God’s blessings upon your generosity and His preservation of you and your families, I remain prayerfully,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

+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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