

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

April 6, 2021

Beloved Hierarchs and Reverend Clergy,

Greetings and blessings to you all during this holy season of Lent!

As we approach the days of Holy Week and Pascha, we understand the desire for our people to experience the fullness of the divine services after having been deprived of them last year. As the country continues to open up in the coming weeks, we would like to give the following update as promised in our last directives before Lent.

Given the greatly varying local conditions, we advise the pastors, in consultation with their parish councils, to use their best pastoral judgment allowing as many people as possible to attend the services of Holy Week and Pascha in a safe manner. In order to safely include as many of the faithful as possible, we must continue with appropriate cleaning and use of face coverings. Again, using your pastoral discretion, you may plan for processions as normal during Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pascha. Likewise, if safe conditions allow, you may also plan for gatherings with food after services, following guidelines from our last directive and local health departments.

With prayerful best wishes a glorious celebration of Holy Pascha, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F