



Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral

Mother Church and Seat of the Metropolitan Archbishop of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Founded in 1895 by St. Raphael of Brooklyn

Metropolitan JOSEPH
*Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America*

Archpriest Thomas P. Zain
Vicar General & Dean

March 18, 2020

Beloved in Christ:

I greet you in the name of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ as we continue our holy fast during these difficult and trying times. As you are all aware, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are affecting all aspects of our lives, not the least of which is our liturgical and spiritual lives during this all-holy season.

Yesterday, we received guidance from our father in Christ, Metropolitan Joseph, on how to navigate our liturgical lives during this time. First and foremost, we will cooperate with our governmental authorities at all times with regard to guidelines from the CDC and directives from the federal, state and local authorities to do our part to quell the spread of this virus. Having said that, given the constraints we are under as I write to you, we have stopped all services to the public and only the clergy and a couple chanters will celebrate the Friday Madeyeh/Akathist to the Theotokos, Sunday Orthros and Divine Liturgy and next Wednesday evening for the Feast of the Annunciation. The Cathedral will be closed during these services; however, it is our intent to live-stream the services via our Cathedral Facebook page starting this Friday at 7:00pm and Sunday at the normal times. Likewise, on the archdiocese webpage, Antiochian.org, you can find readers services that you can do at home with your family. I encourage all of you to use this time with your families to pray in your icon corners, share meals together as a family and make the best of this situation. When it is time for these services, come together and join us as we lift up our prayers to God and ask the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos, during this time of tribulation.

In addition, we ask each and every one of you for your financial support during this time. Most of our income for the entire year comes during this season of Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. We depend on this income to sustain us through the summer when people are away. Please, I beg you to send in your pledges and donations. You can also give online using the "DONATE" button on our website at www.stnicholascathedral.org with your Visa or Mastercard. Also, if you would like candles lit during this time or to offer prayers, please specify that in your donations.

Finally, please check our website, Facebook page and your email for further updates to this ever-changing situation. If you are not on our email list, please add your email through the link on our website or send me an email asking to add it manually using the email address below. Be safe and pray for us as we pray for you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Thomas P. Zain".

Archpriest Thomas Zain
Vicar General and Dean

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