



**St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church Lanham, Maryland**  
**Latest Updated Announcement as of 3/19/2020 Please READ**

Reprinted from Metropolis Letterhead

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy Of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey  
My Beloved,

I pray this letter finds you well physically and spiritually as we continue our Spiritual Journey through Great and Holy Lent. As per the revised directive issued by the Ecumenical Patriarchate through the Exarch His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, **effective immediately the Divines Services are hereby permitted to take place within our parishes. However, the doors to the churches will remain closed to the faithful, as they are to be instructed to participate in the celebration of the Divine Services through the various online live streaming services that have been made available to them.** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey is working on developing a dedicated online live streaming service which will be made available on the Metropolis website [www.nj.goarch.org](http://www.nj.goarch.org). An announcement will be forthcoming once the Metropolis live stream is complete. Praying that our merciful Lord, the physician of our souls and bodies, continues to strengthen and guide us, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,  
✠ *EVANGELOS*  
Metropolitan of New Jersey

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Dear Congregation of St. Theodore Church,

Each day we are told something differently, so I apologize for the confusion. The above message has just been sent and all services that are listed below will be conducted but they **are not open to the public or the congregation for your safety.** You can find services on many church websites. We will be having a live streaming of the services through our Facebook page which is **St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church of Lanham, Maryland.** You can view the services from there or you can choose the Metropolis of New Jersey site, or the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese site.

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Friday, March 20, 2020</u></b> -    | Third Salutations to the Virgin Mary, <b>7 p.m.</b>                        |
| <b><u>Sunday, March 22, 2020</u></b> -    | Adoration of the Holy Cross, <b>9 a.m.</b> Orthros, <b>10 a.m.</b> Liturgy |
| <b><u>Wednesday, March 25, 2020</u></b> - | will be celebrated at the Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore              |
| <b><u>Friday, March 27, 2020</u></b> -    | Fourth Salutations of the Virgin Mary, <b>7 p.m.</b>                       |
| <b><u>Sunday, March 29, 2020</u></b> -    | Fourth Sunday of Lent, <b>9 a.m.</b> Orthros, <b>10 a.m.</b> Liturgy       |
| <b><u>Wednesday, April 1, 2020</u></b> -  | Presanctified Divine Liturgy, <b>6:30 p.m.</b>                             |
| <b><u>Friday, April 3, 2020</u></b> -     | The Akathist Hymn, <b>7 p.m.</b>                                           |
| <b><u>Sunday, April 5, 2020</u></b> -     | Fifth Sunday of Lent, <b>9 a.m.</b> Orthros, <b>10 a.m.</b> Liturgy        |
| <b><u>Wednesday, April 8, 2020</u></b> -  | Presanctified Divine Liturgy, <b>6:30 p.m.</b>                             |

The above schedule takes us up to but not including the Saturday of Lazarus. We will notify you if there are any changes to the schedule for Holy Week. You will receive that in the April Newsletter. Everyone is to keep following the directives of the CDC and the Governor's directives and mandates. Stay at home, wash your hands frequently, do not come in contact with anyone other than your immediate family members. This is how the pandemic can be conquered. Pray, pray again, pray three times each day. Read the bible, and have faith. We are being tested for some reason.

St. Peter writes in his Epistle 1:6-8 ***"Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. 7 Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express."*** Stay strong in your faith my beloved congregation.

In our Lord's Service,  
*Father Manuel*