

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Is 40:8

Palm Sunday 2019

To Be Read from the Pulpit and Printed in the Bulletin

Beloved in Christ:

Blessings and greetings to you and your families on the day of this Great Feast!

Having completed the forty-day Fast, we take time before entering into Holy Week to celebrate the raising of Lazarus and our Lord's triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem before His salvific passion and resurrection. Christ's raising of Lazarus is a prototype of our bodily resurrection, and His entry into Jerusalem confirms his kingship of humility and love, not egoism and the sword.

The historical settings of these two decisive events bring us back to the Middle East and our Mother Church. While we are hopeful that the terrible war that has plagued Syria for the past several years is coming to an end, its effects on the people both of Syria and Lebanon will be felt for generations. As they turn from this time of war and suffering to one of hope and rebuilding, we must continue to stand with our Father in Christ, Patriarch JOHN X, and the daunting task he faces. Let us help him to ensure that our Church will remain both a beacon of hope to the suffering and displaced and a leader in the efforts to rebuild and restore the brokenness of the people.

Today, as we celebrate this glorious feast, let us remember our beloved Mother Church as She undertakes this holy work. In addition to offering up prayers, let us also offer up donations so that we might put our faith into action. While most of us will never visit Syria, we can still do our part to help alleviate the pain and suffering and instill a ray of hope into the hearts and souls of the people.

Wishing you a solemn Holy Week and a most joyous Pascha, I remain,

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 long horizontal stroke at the end.

+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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