



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

January 22, 2009

Protocol 09-2

The Pious Pastors
of the Holy Metropolis of Denver

With the approach of the Great Lent period, I wish to call to your mind certain matters that I have addressed over the years.

As each of you knows, the period of the Great Fast is the most compunctionate season of the year, and each pastor must do all that is within his ability and power to effectively minister to each of the faithful entrusted to your care during this most important time.

One matter that is of perennial concern for all pastors is the matter of the once almost-forgotten sacrament of Holy Repentance. Many priests have told me that, in their opinion, one reason for people to stay away from this vital Mystery is that they very simply do not know what it entails, or even what one does in confession. You may therefore consider offering clear and thorough catechetical instruction, in your periodic mailings, and in Bible study/inquiry classes regarding this important Mystery. You should also meet with the Church school teachers and encourage them to speak of this holy Sacrament to the children and students.

It should go without saying that during the period of the Great Fast, beginning on Clean Monday, you should schedule times for Holy Confession for the benefit of the people. I urge you to celebrate both Saturday evening Vespers and Sunday Vespers, in addition to the Great Compline on Mondays and Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays, and to schedule times for confession before and/or after each service as appropriate.

Through these additional services and schedules, the priest will also benefit himself by entering more easily into the spirit of the Lenten season.

As you also know, I have sent out numerous Teleturgical Encyclicals to standardize the liturgical practices in this Metropolis and to ensure that the various services are celebrated according to the traditional order. In this particular Lenten season I call to your attention to three of these: TE-04, regarding order and cleanliness, TE-05 regarding the order of service for Small Compline and the Akathist Hymn, and TE-06 regarding the celebration of the Presanctified Liturgy. Please read and review these encyclicals. If you do not have copies, you may download them from the Metropolis web site: www.denver.goarch/teleturgical-encyclicals.

Please always keep in mind that the encyclicals are not "suggestions" or "recommendations," but they are the manner in which I as the hierarch of this Metropolis direct that the services be celebrated in all parishes of the Metropolis.

May this coming Great Lent bring many spiritual benefits to all the clergy and the laity of this holy Metropolis.

With Paternal Blessings,

✠ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver