



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

March 2, 2022

My beloved in the Lord,

I greet you with love and joy in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, praying that His peace and grace be with you all as we prepare to begin the Fast of Great and Holy Lent!

Over the past month, I have been blessed to be attended by skilled physicians who have addressed my recent health concerns with compassion and clear understanding. I give thanks to Almighty God for their counsel, and am pleased to report that I write these words to you with a full heart, as my health continues to improve day by day.

Though I regret that I have not seen you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for some time now, I find peace in heart and mind as we all prepare to begin the great 40 day fast together. Just as I have continued to pray unceasingly while my health is restored, we shall all find the opportunities to study the words of the Fathers, to recite the Psalms from our hearts, and to think about the mysteries of our Lord's Holy Gospel during this Springtime Fast.

As I continue to rest and regain my health, your thoughts, your kind words, and your prayers have done much to uplift my spirits, and so I wanted to acknowledge your concern and love. Of course, even as we prepare to begin the holiest season in our Ecclesiastical Year, our entire world is troubled by a conflict that harms two traditionally Orthodox countries. While we all wish to remain informed, let us use the coming spiritual discipline of Great Lent to pray even more fervently that *"the peace which passeth all understanding..."* (Philippians 4:7) may bring healing and comfort to our divided world.

God willing, at the conclusion of this period of repentance, may we all be strengthened in body and mind, to stand before the Empty Tomb, reminded that we live in the light and hope of the Resurrection.

Seeking your continued prayers for good health, strength, and for peace in the whole world, I remain,

With paternal blessings and with much love in our Lord,

+ ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta