

My Beloved Ones,

As we are nearing the end of the first month of the new Ecclesiastical Year and have just entered the season of fall, I hope and pray that we will continue in a mood of spiritual uplift and resolve.

Serving the Southeastern United States of America, I realize that the Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Atlanta is in a unique and historic position, in that most of our nation's oldest Orthodox churches were founded in this region; and that many have passed, or are approaching their centenaries.

One such parish in our Metropolis, St. John the Divine in Jacksonville Florida, is preparing to celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary this weekend, where His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and I will be in joyful attendance. Afterwards, we shall be present for the groundbreaking of a new sanctuary located on a nearby property, meant to meet the changing needs of its people.

I am thankful to almighty God that I serve a Metropolis which has strived to remember and honor its forefathers, but one which is also not simply content to maintain the things our fathers gave to us. Our goal in this 21st Century should be to proclaim our identity as Orthodox Christians, and then to venture out and share these things with the wider communities in which we are living.

I would like you to know that I pray for you constantly no matter where I am, and I ask that you pray for your clergy, and for your humble servant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexios', written in a cursive style.

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta

