



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> ATLANTA

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## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

April 27, 2021

Rev. Fr. Anthony Stratis  
Mr. Mike Nassios, Parish Council President and Esteemed Parish Council Members  
And the Faithful of St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
4070 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 30329

My dearly beloved in the Lord,

*“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”  
(Matthew 9:37-38)*

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, praying that you all will be blessed with His abundant gifts of peace, health, and strength as we continue our journey through Holy Week!

Following your community’s recent renovation of a new and beautiful sanctuary, it seems appropriate to consider how your Metropolis might support a parish which is bearing much fruit, just like the harvest spoken of by our Lord. I give thanks to Almighty God who sees the bounty being cultivated in your parish, and who, through the intercessions of your Patron Saint, knows the blessings that could be received with the addition a Second Priest. As your Hierarch, I believe now is the time to engage the wider Knoxville community, to provide more spiritual ministries for the edification of a growing congregation, and to undertake all the opportunities needed to fulfill our obligation to preach the Good News—not just to our families, but our friends and neighbors also.

Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that Deacon Dionysius Lambropoulos has been appointed to serve in your community, beginning tomorrow, Holy Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. I pray that you will warmly welcome Dn. Dionysius to your parish as he labors alongside Fr. Anthony Stratis in the Lord’s Vineyard, for the good of the spiritual harvest. Deacon Dionysius will then be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Cathedral of the Annunciation here in Atlanta, Georgia, where representatives of your parish are of course invited to attend. Thereafter, the newly ordained Fr. Dionysius will serve under the direction of Fr. Anthony as *Ephemerios* in the community of St. George.

I write to also let you know that the Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, will contact you after Great and Holy Pascha to assist with Dn. Dionysius’ transition into your community.

Thanking you for your attentiveness to this important matter, and praying that your community experiences the full radiance of our Lord’s Resurrection, I remain,

Paternally yours, with many blessings and with much love in Christ,

**+ALEXIOS**  
Metropolitan of Atlanta