



## Metropolis of Chicago launches COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund

**Lombard, IL, April 2, 2020** – The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago today announced the creation of a COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund to support parishes under significant financial distress as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund will provide direct financial assistance to parishes in urgent need as determined by a special committee established by the Metropolis. **100% of the monies donated will flow directly to parishes.** The Metropolis will provide updates on monies collected and distributed, and the Fund will be included in the annual independent audit of the Metropolis' financial statements.

“Saint Paul reminds us that our baptism in Christ makes us all members of His Body. And so, when one member of the body suffers, all suffer together,” said His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. “Given that some of our parishes are more vulnerable than others, our collective focus must be to come together as the local Body of Christ and support the parishes in our Holy Metropolis that are experiencing the most financial distress.”

Parishes seeking financial assistance from the Fund will be required to submit written requests, supported by financial disclosures, outlining current and anticipated operating losses. Beyond administering the Fund, the Metropolis also intends to work with its parishes to help them develop programs to cultivate more sustainable, long-term financial support and to implement stewardship best practices. Donations to the Fund can be made [HERE](#).

“Though we must remain separated due a contagious virus, we cannot overlook the invitation to grow closer as a spiritual community and remain united as the Body of Christ. I can think of no greater need at this time as we approach Holy Week,” His Eminence said.

### **About the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago**

Tracing its roots back to 1923, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is the diocese of Greek Orthodox faithful in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Indiana, and southeastern Missouri, consisting of 58 parishes and two monastic communities. The Metropolis is one of nine regions in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. The general offices of the Metropolis are temporarily located in Lombard, Illinois. For more information and to get involved, visit our [website](#), join a [Strategic Planning Team](#), sign up to receive [Metropolis news](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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