March 12, 2020

To the Most Reverend Vicars & Reverend Priests of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta

My beloved Brothers in Christ,

_Glory to God for His many blessings!_

As we prepare to celebrate Great and Holy Lent, I greet you warmly, and fervently join you in thanking our Lord for the spiritual renewal He will provide us in the coming weeks. At this time, it is with great spiritual joy that I extend on behalf of His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, our best wishes to you and your Parish Family.

Our **2020 Archangel Michael Feast and Honors Weekend** is scheduled for Saturday through Sunday, **November 7 – 8, 2020**, at the Metropolis Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia. In anticipation of this joyous celebration, enclosed please find the Flyer and Guidelines For Parishes To Follow. After reviewing this documents, use the link [https://atlmetropolis.org/archangel-michael-honors](https://atlmetropolis.org/archangel-michael-honors) to report your two parish honorees online. The **submission deadline is Friday, April 24, 2020.**

As soon as you submit your “Honoree Reporting/Affirmation by Parish Priest Form” online, the Metropolis office will provide your Honorees with important information regarding the Archangel Michael Feast and Honors Weekend, including the honors banquet, weekend schedule, and hotel accommodations. In addition, we will obtain their information and special quote for our commemorative album.

If you have any questions, please telephone Ethel Gjerde, 404-634-9345 x 2. **I encourage you to approach immediately your Parish Council members, your Philoptochos members and your Youth groups and seek input for your Adult Honoree and your Youth/Young Adult Honoree. Again, the deadline for receipt of the “Honoree Reporting/Affirmation by Parish Priest Form” is Friday, April 24, 2020.**

I convey my appreciation for your kind assistance with this effort. My congratulations in advance to your honorees, and my thanks to all who will assist you with your selections.
May you enjoy all the bountiful blessings of Great & Holy Lent with your family and loved ones. God bless and be with you always.

Faithfully yours with brotherly love,

+ Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis
Chancellor

Enclosures:
1) 2020 Announcement Flyer
2) “Guidelines for Parishes To Follow Regarding The Selection of Honorees,”

REVISED FOR 2020...
GUIDELINES FOR OUR PARISHES TO FOLLOW REGARDING THE SELECTION OF HONOREES

Each Parish/Cathedral shall annually select TWO (2) MEMBERS OF THEIR PARISH COMMUNITY TO RECEIVE THE ARCHAELANGEL MICHAEL HONORS. In selecting honorees, please consider those living parishioners who would be both willing and able to attend and participate since being present for the honors weekend has proven to be very inspiring and memorable.

Please refer to separate handout entitled “Guidelines for our Parishes to Follow Regarding the Selection of Honorees” for full statement.
The Archangel Michael Feast was prayerfully conceived by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios upon His arrival to Atlanta, as the annual double feast of the Metropolitan family. Since 1998, the Metropolitan family comes together in Atlanta on the weekend of, prior to, or following the November 8th Feast of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. It is to honor and celebrate our Patron Saint and the lives of two parishioners from each parish, who are the living examples of the Orthodox Christian life and journey to Theosis. By extension, this special Metropolis feast is also the annual Metropolitan celebration and thanks giving for all devout stewards of faith, time and talent, “Who first give themselves to the Lord by the will of God.

The Twenty First Annual Archangel Michael Feast & Honors Program
November 7 – 8, 2020

Honors Banquet & Program
Saturday, November 7, 2020 ~6:00 PM
At the
Metropolis Annunciation Cathedral
Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Center
2500 Clairmont Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Archieratical Divine Liturgy offered by
His Eminence Alexios I, Metropolitan of Atlanta
Sunday, November 8, 2020 ~ 9:30 AM
Cathedral of the Annunciation
Fellowship will follow in Annunciation Cathedral– Carlos Hall

Clergy – please send to Fr. George Tsahakis
no later than Friday, April 24, 2020, the
“Honoree Reporting/Affirmation by Parish Priest Form”
GUIDELINES FOR OUR PARISHES TO FOLLOW REGARDING THE SELECTION OF HONOREES

1. Each Parish/Cathedral shall annually select TWO (2) MEMBERS OF THEIR PARISH COMMUNITY TO RECEIVE THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL HONORS. In selecting honorees, please consider those living parishioners who would be both willing and able to attend and participate since being present for the honors weekend has proven to be very inspiring and memorable.

Note: To clarify further, two (2) honorees means just two persons—for example, naming a husband and wife as one (1) honoree would not be appropriate because a husband and wife are two different persons. Further, brothers/sisters or twins would be considered two or more persons and likewise be inappropriate. In instances where husband/wife or brother/sister relationships are close ties, select one person for this year and set aside the other person for next year. Again, each Parish/Cathedral Priest is to select only two (2) persons total.

2. HONOREES shall be chosen by the Parish Priest following his consultations with each of the following groups: the Parish Council and Philoptochos.

3. HONOREES must be living Parish Members, who exemplify the true Orthodox Christian way of life by their deep faith, commitment, dedication and service to the Church and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on their respective Parish level. Before selecting honorees, we suggest a prayerful reflection on the following references:

   "Well done, good and faithful servant: You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)

   "The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his or her life and activities, to seek personal spiritual growth, to attend the Divine Liturgy and other Services of Worship faithfully on Sundays and Holy Days, to keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox Tradition, to receive frequently the Sacraments of Penance of Holy Communion, to train and teach the young according to the Faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, to respect the Clergy, the Ecclesiastical Authority and all governing bodies of the Church to be obedient in matters of Faith and Ecclesiastical Order, and to cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission." (Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations, Article V, Section 6)

   "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, Serve the Lord." (Romans 12:9-11)

4. Selected honorees must submit a full color photograph (portrait style), complete a brief follow-up questionnaire, and provide a personal quote to be included in the commemorative booklet. The Metropolis of Atlanta will request this information after their selection is announced to the Metropolis Office.