GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS OF NEW JERSEY'S MESSAGE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026 AND THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

My Beloved Reverend Clergy, and Faithful of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey,

On this blessed Fourth of July, as our nation commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to Almighty God, "from whom every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

We thank the Lord for the precious gift of freedom, and especially for the liberty to worship Him in spirit and in truth. For two and a half centuries, this nation has offered countless generations the opportunity to live in hope, to serve their neighbor, and to practice their faith without fear. As Greek Orthodox Christians, we recognize these blessings as sacred gifts entrusted to us by God, calling us to faithful stewardship.

The Holy Scriptures remind us, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). The future of every people is secured not merely by prosperity or strength, but by righteousness, humility, and trust in the living God. May we therefore never cease to pray for our country, for its leaders, for those who defend our freedoms, and for all who seek the common good, remembering the Apostle's exhortation "that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people… and for all who are in authority" (1 Timothy 2:1–2).

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us renew our commitment to become "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), bearing witness to Christ through lives of faith, compassion, justice, and peace. May our homes, our parishes, and our communities reflect the love of God and become beacons of hope for generations yet to come.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless the United States of America, granting her peace, wisdom, and unity, and may He richly bless each of you and your families.

Happy Independence Day, and may God bless America!

†Metropolitan Apostolos

†APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey

215 East Grove Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090-1656
908-301-0500 · www.nj.goarch.org · metropolis@nj.goarch.org