



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

TO: All Clergy of the Direct Archdiocesan District

FROM: Bishop Andonios, Chancellor

DATE: March 15, 2011

RE: 3rd Salutations Service, Holy Communion and Holy Week and Memorials

My dear Brothers-in-Christ,

I trust you are enjoying a blessed and spiritually uplifting Lenten journey. I had begun a letter to you all as we embarked upon Great Lent, but unfortunately, some crises have diverted my attention and I have been unable to complete it. Hopefully I can do so before too long. In any case, I did want to communicate very quickly by way of this “memo” and bring to your attention the following three “timely” items which REQUIRE your attention AND COOPERATION:

1. As per the email I sent a few weeks ago to those of you who are on Fr. Nick Ancil's email list, Friday, March 25th, instead of chanting the Salutations Service, you will instead chant a vespers service marking the “apodosis” of the Annunciation. At the conclusion of vespers (as per the emerologion), you will chant the 3rd Stanza of the Salutations. These are the rubrics of the Church and it is your obligation to follow them.
2. As was instituted last year (and met with very positive response), I ask that you once again refrain from including any designated time (outside of a liturgy) when Holy Communion will be distributed when preparing your Holy Week Schedule for distribution to your communicants. While this practice of distributing communion before/after Liturgy on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday mornings was widespread in the past, I am glad to see that ALL our clergy discontinued this unfortunate practice last year. I trust that you will ALL do the same this year so that I am not forced to address with any of you, instances when this directive has been ignored.
3. A final reminder - Memorial Services (Mnymosena) are prohibited from the Saturday of Lazarus until AFTER the Sunday of Thomas so please make sure that no memorial services are scheduled especially for the Sunday after Pascha. I had to address the issue last year with one brother and trust that it will not be necessary to do so this year. I will not be so “understanding” this year.

Kali Dynamis kai Kali Tessarakosti!

Χαρι Τεσσαρακοστή!
Bishop Andonios