

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

November 15, 2017

V. Rev. Fr. Andrew Harmon
St. Matthew Antiochian Orthodox Church
PO Box 33183
North Royalton, OH 44133-0183

Dear Father Andrew and Beloved Faithful of Saint Matthew Orthodox Church,

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ!

I learned with shock and sadness of the fire that broke out in your sanctuary this past weekend. My shock and sadness were followed by my paternal pride in learning of the faith and resilience shown by all of you in the wake of this tragedy. Befitting your calling as Orthodox Christians, you have not ceased your rich liturgical life and have made plans to celebrate your patronal feast this evening with joy and hope in Our Lord. May the Grace of God received through your commitment to life of the Church bring your sacred community together to meet the challenges that have been set forth for you!

Beloved in Christ, please be assured of the love, prayers, and support of myself as well as my brother hierarchs and all of our Christ-loving clergy and faithful during this time, and know that we will stand with you until the day of the triumphant restoration of your holy temple!

Asking the prayers of the Holy Apostle Matthew for you to be granted hope and faith, strength and resolve, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, sweeping stroke.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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