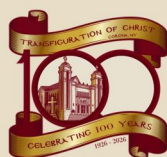


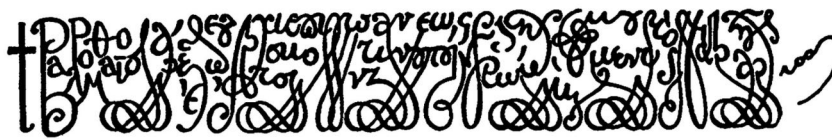


SECTION I

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS

*His All-Holiness
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*





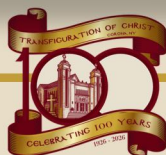
MESSAGE
OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CORONA, QUEENS, NEW YORK

To His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
The Very Reverend Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos, Parish Priest,
And the devout faithful of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church,
Beloved children in the Lord,

With spiritual joy and paternal affection, we address you on the occasion of the completion of one hundred years since the founding of your historic community, which you commemorate on the great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. This centennial milestone invites us to offer thanksgiving to the All-Holy Trinity, the source of every blessing.

From its humble beginnings in Queens, your ecclesial family has stood as a steadfast witness to the Gospel of Christ and to the living tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church. For a full century, the sacred temple dedicated to the Lord's Transfiguration has called the faithful to repentance, sanctification, and renewal of life in Christ. Within its holy walls, generations have been illumined through the mysteries of the Church, strengthened by the preaching of the Word, and nourished by the rhythm of liturgical prayer.

We recall with gratitude the vision and sacrifices of the pious founders, clergy, and benefactors who labored with faith and perseverance to establish and sustain this congregation. Established through the faith and sacrifice of immigrant forebears, your spiritual home has preserved a living Orthodox witness across generations in the ever-changing life of Queens. Their legacy endures in the devotion of the present faithful, who continue to uphold the Orthodox faith while opening its doors ever more widely to all who dwell in its midst, offering the healing and truth of the Church across the boundaries of language and origin.



The concurrence of your centenary celebration with Palm Sunday bears a profound spiritual meaning, for it was on this very feast, one hundred years ago, that your founders first gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, thereby establishing this parish in the joy of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. As they welcomed Christ with faith and hope, so also you glorify Him today through a century of witness, service, and perseverance. This reminds us that the way to the joy of the Resurrection passes through humility, faithfulness, and the Cross.

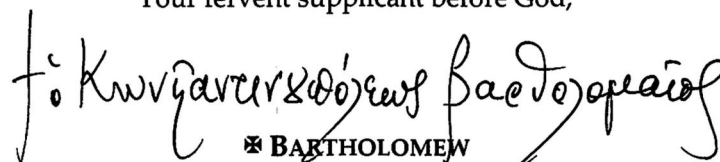
On this blessed anniversary, we extend our Patriarchal congratulations and heartfelt prayers to your parish priest, the parish council, and all the devout souls who have served and worshiped in this community throughout the years. We pray that Christ our God, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor and entered Jerusalem for our salvation, may continue to grant you unity, perseverance, and renewed zeal for the work of the Gospel.

As you now embark upon your second century of ministry, may the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church remain a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come, steadfast in the sacred tradition entrusted to it and responsive to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

Invoking upon you the abundant grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we impart to you our Patriarchal blessing and paternal prayers.

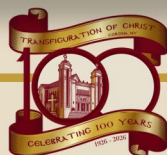
At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 13 March 2026

Your fervent supplicant before God,



✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*



*His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros
of America*





OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

April 5, 2026

To the V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Panos, Presiding Priest; the esteemed members of the Parish Council; the gracious Ladies of Philoptochos; the dedicated parish ministry leaders, volunteers and participants; and all the devout, Christ-loving faithful of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, New York:

It is with sentiments of paternal joy that I congratulate you wholeheartedly on the special occasion of your Centennial Anniversary. Celebrating one hundred years is an attestation to our true identity and ultimate purpose of becoming citizens of paradise — that is, pilgrims journeying toward our eternal home in God's Heavenly Kingdom. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to "set our minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on the earth" (Col. 3:2). And this is a powerful reminder that all our efforts, labors and lives must always be centered on our Savior, who connects our humanity with the divine and serves as the living bridge to eternal life.

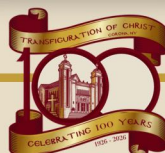
Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you to always remain steadfast in your endeavors to transform any challenges that lie in your way by beseeching the grace and power of God. As you have come to know quite well over the years, this can only be achieved through an authentic life in Christ, which necessitates and presupposes a selfless love for your neighbor as well as a sincere desire to help those in need. After all, a dynamic Christian presence and genuine way of life are key to the vitality of our communities, and they will continue to propel us forward to new heights and novel horizons for our mutual welfare and collective spiritual betterment for many more years to come.

And so, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, as you rightly mark this blessed milestone with your joyful communal festivities, I entreat you to continue striving to guide all who enter your church's doors toward our common paradisaic homeland. May your centenary inspire a renewed zeal, a deeper unity and a Christ-centered purpose in all your endeavors, thereby ensuring that future generations will be able to walk steadfastly along the God-pleasing path that you and your ancestors have paved through your collective faith and love. May our Savior bless and protect you forevermore, guiding you from "strength to strength" and "glory to glory" toward even greater spiritual heights and achievements. Many, many congratulations to you all!

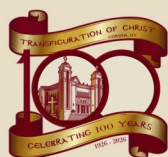
With much paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0192 · Telephone: (212) 570-3511 · Fax: (212) 570-3592
Email: archbishopoffice@goarch.org · Web Site: www.goarch.org



*His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios,
formerly of America*





+ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
formerly of AMERICA

New York, March 21, 2026

V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Panos
Transfiguration of Christ Church
38-05 98th Street
Corona, New York 11368 -2170

Dear Father Chrysostomos and faithful members of the Transfiguration of Christ Parish in Corona, New York,

You have my wholehearted congratulations and my sincere thanks for your kind invitation to the celebrations of the first one hundred years of existence and activities of the Transfiguration of Christ Church in Corona.

I remember visiting the Transfiguration Church for the first time in the year 1966. But it was in the period of 1981 to 1993, when I served as a Professor at our Holy Cross School of Theology, that I had opportunities for more visits.

However, my deepest connection with the Transfiguration Church and community was formed during the twenty years (1999–2019) when I had the great honor of serving as Archbishop of America. During that time, I did not merely visit you often; I worshiped God alongside you—celebrating Divine Liturgies, Vespers, and other sacred services—and stood with you as we faced and overcame many challenges together.

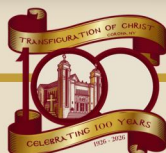
From my very first visit to my present relationship with the Transfiguration Church, I have always been deeply impressed by its vibrancy, dynamism, and endurance, as well as its unwavering witness to the Orthodox Faith and Tradition and its continual offering of the rich treasures of Greek education and culture.

In the past, you have successfully overcome many challenges. More recently, you were confronted with a devastating fire that caused serious damage to the Church. Yet, by the grace of God and your remarkable resolve, you not only endured and overcame the many difficulties that followed, but you have also restored your Church in such a way that today it stands even stronger and more beautiful than before the fire.

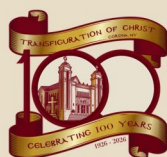
You have been blessed for many years with the outstanding priest V. Rev Archimandrite Chrysostomos, a man wholly dedicated to Christ and His Church. As you have done so faithfully until now, continue your excellent work as you embark upon your second century of existence. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever, beloved people of Transfiguration in Corona.

Prayerfully and affectionally Yours in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios formerly of America



*His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of
Sweden and All Scandinavia*



Dearly Beloved Brother in Christ Fr. Chrysostom,

I received with sincere joy and heartfelt gratitude your kind letter and gracious invitation of february 19, 2026, on the occasion of the historic Centennial Celebration of the Transfiguration of Christ Community in Corona, New York.

Thank you for your thoughtful remembrance and for the honor you extend to me to participate in this sacred and historic milestone marking one hundred years since the founding of this blessed and vibrant community. It is truly a moment of profound spiritual significance and great pride for the Greek Orthodox faithful and the entire Greek-American Omogeneia.

I am deeply grateful to Almighty God, Who deemed me worthy to serve this historic parish for eight years as its Proistamenos. By His divine providence, my priestly ministry there coincided with the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the community. On that blessed occasion, I was entrusted with the responsibility and honor of authoring, in both Greek and English, the bilingual historical account of the first seventy-five years of the life and witness of the community, which was published as a commemorative volume dedicated to that important jubilee. This remains for me a cherished spiritual legacy and a lasting testimony to the faith, sacrifices, and perseverance of our faithful.

I congratulate you wholeheartedly, together with the Parish Council and the entire community, for organizing these centennial celebrations in a manner worthy of the sacred history and enduring contribution of this historic parish.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor, continue to illumine and strengthen the faithful of the Transfiguration Community for many generations to come.

Although I may not be able to be physically present, please know that I will be with you in spirit and in prayer, participating noetically in the joy and thanksgiving of this historic centennial celebration.

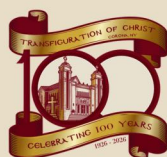
With paternal love in Christ and prayers for continued blessings upon your sacred ministry and the faithful entrusted to your pastoral care, I remain,

Prayerfully and most gratefully yours,

† Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia



*Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos
Parish Priest of the Church of the
Transfiguration of Christ*



On Palm Sunday 1926 a small group of Greek pioneers opened the doors of the first church so that Christ might make His triumphant entrance for the first time entering and sitting in the hearts of all those Orthodox Christians. At the same time, future generations were offered the love of Christ through His Holy Orthodox Church.

They say that when someone takes a step forward every so often and stays as is, then he undoubtedly takes two steps backward. The same can be said with religious organizations and communities. In other words, we need to always take forward steps. This community has always moved forward since its inception. In the past 100 years, it has seen a new church built in 1957, a community center, a thriving school and many ministries aimed at maintaining the Orthodox traditions of our ancestors and always upholding Christ as its cornerstone. Although the population of the community has declined in the last few decades due to a change in demographics the spirit of those who remain continue to drive this church and community triumphantly forward.

Our parishioners full of pride for their religious accomplishments, with the blessings of our Hierarch and Chief-Shepherd His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, offer hymns of thanksgiving and praise, at this historic juncture of 100-years, to the triumphant entry of Christ into our hearts and souls, proclaiming with a thunderous voice:

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos

Parish Priest





It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the Transfiguration of Christ Church since 2019 in various capacities on the Parish Council. To be entrusted with leadership within a community that has given so much to my family and to me is both humbling and deeply meaningful.

I am especially privileged to serve a parish where my parents raised all five of their children, instilling in us the values of faith, service, and community that have shaped our lives.



Every major milestone of our family's journey has been rooted here — we attended school within these walls, worshipped together each Sunday, were married before this altar, and baptized our children in this sacred space. Some of our fondest memories were formed in the classrooms of the school and within the life of the church, memories that continue to guide and inspire us today.

When I first felt called to serve on the Parish Council, it felt less like a decision and more like a calling — one that I carry in my heart as a continuation of my father's legacy. Though he is no longer with us, I believe his spirit of service and devotion to this parish lives on through the work I strive to do, giving back to the community that gave so much to our family.

To now be part of our Centennial celebration is far more than an honor — it is profoundly moving. One hundred years of faith, perseverance, sacrifice, and love is a testament to the generations who came before us and laid the foundation upon which we now stand. As someone who has been part of this community for my entire life, and who has returned as an adult to serve and lead, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to help carry this legacy forward.

I am also incredibly thankful to serve under the guidance of Father Chrysostom. His leadership, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to our parish have been truly remarkable. We are blessed beyond measure to have him shepherding our community during this historic time.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, may we honor our past, cherish our present, and look toward the future with faith and hope. May the Transfiguration of Christ Church continue to be a spiritual home for generations to come, just as it has been for my family and so many others over the past century.

With gratitude and love for our parish family,

Lori Bothos

President, Parish Council of Transfiguration of Christ Church



Dear Families and Friends of the Transfiguration of Christ Church,

It is a great honor and pleasure to serve the Philoptochos of the Transfiguration of Christ. We are continuing the vision of our predecessors and building on their experience while continuing to always look forward. The beloved cooperation of all the members in all the community activities ensures the success and progress of our community, leading up to the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of its founding.

The work of the Philoptochos is endless but very rewarding. Philanthropy, or love of humanity, is the power that drives us to provide offerings and change the lives of the needy, with the goal of a better world. Helping the poor, the orphaned, the elderly and the victims of natural disasters is the purpose of philanthropy.

Looking to the future, we know there will be difficulties that we will encounter but your presence gives us the strength and certainty that with hard work, agape, and respect, we will prosper. May God bless us and guide us to continue to do his work. Congratulations to our community on the centennial anniversary.

With agape,

Regina Papamitrou
Philoptochos President,
Transfiguration of Christ Church



Αγαπητά μέλη και φίλοι της Κοινότητας της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος,

Η συμπλήρωση εκατό χρόνων της κοινότητάς μας αποτελεί μια ιδιαίτερα σημαντική και συγκινητική στιγμή για όλους μας. Για έναν ολόκληρο αιώνα, η κοινότητά μας υπήρξε σημείο αναφοράς, ένας χώρος όπου η πίστη συναντά τις αξίες και τις παραδόσεις μας, οι οποίες μεταδίδονται από γενιά σε γενιά. Το ημερήσιο σχολείο της Μεταμορφώσεως για όσο καιρό λειτουργούσε υπήρξε σημείο αναφοράς για την κοινότητά μας. Ακριβώς όπως συμβαίνει και τώρα με το ελληνικό σχολείο του Σαββάτου που αποτελεί ένα χώρο όπου η γνώση συναντά την πίστη και όπου η ελληνική γλώσσα, οι αξίες και οι παραδόσεις μας μεταδίδονται από γενιά σε γενιά.

Η πορεία αυτή δεν θα ήταν δυνατή χωρίς το όραμα των ιδρυτών μας και την αφοσίωση των ανθρώπων που όλα αυτά τα χρόνια στήριξαν την κοινότητά μας με αγάπη και πίστη. Καθώς τιμούμε αυτή τη σπουδαία επέτειο, εκφράζουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας προς όλους όσοι υπηρέτησαν και συνεχίζουν να υπηρετούν το έργο της κοινότητάς μας. Με σεβασμό στην πλούσια κληρονομιά μας και με πίστη στο μέλλον, συνεχίζουμε την αποστολή μας να εμπνέουμε και να καθοδηγούμε τις επόμενες γενιές.

Εύχομαι ο Θεός να ευλογεί πάντοτε την κοινότητά μας.

Με εκτίμηση,

Ο Διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, Κοινότητα της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος
Ευάγγελος Χαζίρογλου



*Consulate General of Greece
New York,
The Consul General*

New York, 19 March 2026

V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos,

It is with great honor that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Corona, Queens, on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

A century ago, a small group of Greek immigrants, guided by faith and a profound sense of responsibility toward their heritage, came together to establish a spiritual home that would preserve their Orthodox faith and sustain their Hellenic identity in a new land. From those modest beginnings, the parish was built through the devotion and sacrifices of its faithful.

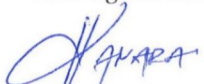
Over the decades, the Church has grown into both a distinguished house of worship and a vital center of Hellenism. Within its walls, the Greek language, traditions, and values have been preserved and passed on from generation to generation, ensuring the continuity of our identity abroad.

As you mark this important milestone, it is fitting to honor all those, both known and unknown, whose dedication sustained this community and safeguarded its character across the decades.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Greece in New York, I convey my sincere appreciation to V. Rev Archimandrite Chrysostom Panos, the Parish Council, and all members of the community. May the parish continue to thrive, strengthening faith and preserving Greek identity for generations to come.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

With highest esteem,


Iphigenia Kanara



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
NEW YORK**

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations on the 100-year Centennial Celebration of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Korona, New York.

It is a profound blessing to celebrate this historic milestone of your parish community. As we gather to commemorate this extraordinary occasion, let us give thanks for the many decades of faith, fellowship, and service that have shaped this community into the vibrant spiritual home it is today — a true beacon of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

Looking back over the last one hundred years, we see a powerful testament of perseverance, devotion, and divine grace. From humble beginnings to a flourishing parish, the Transfiguration of Christ Church has been sustained by the dedication of generations who offered their time, talents, and love to build and sustain this sacred institution. We honor and give thanks for all those who have contributed to this blessed journey and for the countless lives that have been enriched within this holy community.

As we celebrate this centennial, we also look forward with renewed hope and unwavering commitment, granting continued spiritual growth, wisdom, and strength to the community as it embarks upon the next century of its journey.

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for being a vital part of this extraordinary legacy. I am confident that the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Korona, New York will continue to thrive for the years to come, guided by faith and unity, in an open and inclusive spirit.

Warm wishes,

Kyriakos Pogiatzis
Consul General

655 Third Avenue, 17th floor, New York, NY 10017 | +12126866016 / 7
Email: nyconsulate@mfa.gov.cy



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2026

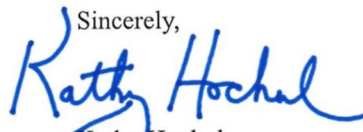
Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church
38-05 98th Street
Corona, NY 11368

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church's centennial celebration.

Since its inception, the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church has united its members through their shared faith. Building on the long-standing legacy of the town's Greek community, the church serves as a guiding light for families in Corona. Members are granted ample opportunities to foster their spiritual growth and cultural belonging, from worship services to language and music lessons.

Today, you gather to celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church's impact on those it serves. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I am grateful for your dedication to the well-being of our residents. Best wishes for an enjoyable celebration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hochul
Governor

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



William & Christine Poll, Faithful Stewards of Transfiguration

On the blessed occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Transfiguration of Christ Church we humbly offer this dedication in profound gratitude and loving remembrance of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, William and Christine Poll, whose lives were firmly rooted in faith, service, and devotion to the Holy Church. William and Christine Poll were among the faithful stewards who labored tirelessly to build, sustain, and strengthen this sacred parish and its community.



William Poll, Grandson

They gave generously of their time, resources, and talents, always placing the needs of the Church before their own. William Poll served faithfully on the Parish Council and was honored as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, reflecting his deep commitment to the Orthodox faith and to the mission of the Mother Church. Christine Poll dedicated many years of service to the Ladies Philoptochos Society and also served as Principal of the Sunday School, nurturing the faith of many children and helping to form future generations in the life of the Church. Together, they exemplified Christian love, humility, and compassion.

One of William Poll's enduring legacies was his leadership and vision in guiding the construction of the present church building on the corner of 98th Street and 38th Avenue, which replaced the original church around the corner. He was deeply involved throughout the process and was a steadfast advocate for preserving the Church's presence within the neighborhood, ensuring that Transfiguration of Christ Church would remain a visible and spiritual home for the faithful for generations to come.

Together with their seven children and grandchildren, William and Christine Poll were devoted and active members of the Transfiguration of Christ Church for many years, supporting our church festivals (let's not forget Christine Poll's famous loukoumades), social gatherings, church dinner dances, the liturgical life of the Church, its clergy, and the broader mission of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Holy Church.

Their children also actively supported the ministries of the Church through participation in the Choir and faithful service in the Altar. Two of their grandchildren attended the Transfiguration of Christ school. Their home was a place of warm hospitality, where they were blessed to host many members of the clergy, including Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America, reflecting their deep respect and love for the Church and its leadership. Their steadfast commitment helped preserve the faith, traditions, and communal spirit that continue to define this parish today. One of the proudest moments for Christine Poll was the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council alongside her grandson, bearing witness to her enduring faith and unwavering dedication to the Church she so deeply loved.

The Poll family has been richly blessed to witness numerous sacred milestones within this holy parish, including the Christenings of family members and great-grandchildren at the Transfiguration of Christ Church—living testimony to a legacy of faith passed faithfully from generation to generation. That legacy continued through the Poll children and grandchildren, who for many years honored the sacred traditions of the Church, including participation in Boy Scouts, Youth programs, Altar Service, the carrying of the Cross on Good Friday and the lifting of the Anastasis on Holy Saturday evening.

On behalf of the William and Christine Poll family, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire Transfiguration of Christ Church community on the celebration of its Centennial Anniversary. We pray that our Lord continues to bless this holy parish with unity, spiritual growth, and faithful leadership for generations to come.

