



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

February 4, 2016

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I pray this communiqué finds you, your loved ones and your community doing well. In order to effectively prepare your calendars and your parish bulletins for the upcoming Great and Holy Lent Period I am writing to inform you of a deviation that exists this year. On the eve of Friday March 25th we would typically prepare to celebrate the Service of the 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos. However, since the following day is the celebration of the Leave-taking of Annunciation (Απόδοσις) the subsequent order of Service is celebrated, in accordance with the rubrics outlined by the Typikon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. You are all asked to follow this guideline:

On the eve of Friday March 25th the rubrics call for the celebration of Vesper Service for the Apodosis; however, following “Νῦν ἀπολύεις...” the Kontakion, “Τῆ ὑπερμάχῳ...” is sung and subsequently the 2nd Stanza of the Salutations is read, “Ἦκουσαν οἱ ποιμένες...”. Afterward, “Τῆ ὑπερμάχῳ...”, Trisagion, and then the Apolytikion of the Feast-Day, “Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας...” and finally the Dismissal, “Ὁ δὲ ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καὶ διὰ τὴν ἡμετέραν σωτηρίαν, ἐκ Πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ Μαρίας τῆς παρθένου, σαρκωθῆναι καταδεξάμενος, Χριστὸς ὁ ἀληθινὸς Θεὸς ἡμῶν...”.

Please refer to your Typikon Book for more details.

The complete Service in Greek and English may be found here:

<http://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs/p/s/2016/03/25/ve/gr-cn/se.m03.d26.ve.pdf>

I trust that all our clergy and parishes will abide by the above as is appropriate to such a directive and so as to avoid confusion within the District.

I wish you all a very blessed and spiritually uplifting period of preparation. May the Good Lord strengthen you as you embark on this holy journey.

Καλό Τριώδιο καὶ Καλή Τεσσαρακοστή!

Respectfully, In Christ's Service,

Fr. Chrysostom Panos
Office of the Chancellor