

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 3, 2020

His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
5201 Ellsworth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Your Eminence, Beloved Brother and Concelebrant in the Divine Mysteries:

It is with deep sadness and a sense of loss that we learned of the passing into eternal life of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of thrice-blessed memory. Metropolitan Maximos was an old and dear friend of our archdiocese, maintaining a close relationship with our hierarchs, clergy and laity as a professor in the Antiochian House of Studies. Additionally, he was a warm and welcomed guest and good neighbor of the Antiochian Village in western Pennsylvania, visiting there often and hosting his own clergy there on many occasions.

In my letter to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros I wrote the following that I would also like to share with you: To the Orthodox world he was a great theologian and professor, but to his flock he was a devoted spiritual father. I recently read the following in a book that I think applies correctly to Metropolitan Maximos, "The theologians of the ancient Church were not men who sat behind a desk surrounded by books, dictionaries, reference books, and academic textbooks. The overwhelming majority of church fathers were bishops or monks: they either actively studied church functions or worshiped in a monastery. Their theology was born from an inner mystical, enriching experience, coming into contact daily with Church Tradition through the liturgical services, prayer, the reading of Scripture, and relationships with the people of God." In my opinion, this quote describes Metropolitan Maximos perfectly and shows that, thanks be to God, we also have modern examples to emulate. He was a theologian in the true, patristic sense of the word and will remain a great example to all who knew him.

On behalf of the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our God-protected archdiocese, please accept our sincere condolences and know that we join you and your metropolis in offering up prayers for the repose of his soul. May his thrice-blessed memory be eternal and may his soul rest with the saints.

Your Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

**+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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