*“My hope is that we will seize the opportunity that is literally being forced upon us,*

*to become more altruistic, more compassionate toward others,*

*more patient, and indeed more faithful.”*

-Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Dear Member of our [name of church] Family,

These are difficult days. We are not able to fully gather in our spiritual home for prayer and fellowship. Yet we remain united as a family of faith, always present for one another in love and support. We look forward to the time when we can all safely gather together in our beloved [name of church].

It is important to remember that, in the words of Archbishop Elpidophoros, “The Ekklesia extends far beyond the four walls of any church building.” The Church is not the building, but rather, it is people of faith that remain connected, drawing spiritual nourishment from God and strength from one another. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact us and we will help in any way we can.

As leaders of our parish, we are working to build upon existing ministries and to initiate new ministries that will keep us connected as the [name of church] family. We have been streaming our services since early this year to keep you connected when you can’t attend. We have begun the Sunday School year with social distancing & masks. Greek school will be virtual this year and begins at the end of September. We are methodically reaching out to our members to be sure they are able to meet their basic needs in this crisis. We will soon be initiating food & clothing collections which will be distributed through local food pantries & shelters. [indicate ministries initiated during the current pandemic that will serve the parish well beyond].

These initiatives and ministries will continue to support the long-term mission of our parish when this current crisis has passed. Thank you for your support that makes them possible. Please continue to support our church so that together we may serve our members and our community during this difficult time. Your offerings of support may be submitted by mail to the church. We have also made online giving available on our church website (www.saintgeorge.ny.goarch.org) for one-time and periodic giving.

Thank you for your support. Through our faith we can trust that we will all soon gather in our beloved [names of church] Church, our spiritual home.

With love in Christ,

Parish Priest Parish Council President

“For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts,

to continue His saving work in the world today.”

-Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris