



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

2560 CROOKS ROAD  
TROY, MI 48084

P (248) 823-2400  
F (248) 823-2401

WWW.DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG  
OFFICE@DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG

14 February 2023

Beloved Students, Faculty, and Staff of Michigan State University, and  
All the Faithful Members of Our Community,

Our hearts ache with all of you as we read the news today. Yesterday, February the 13<sup>th</sup>, we have experienced yet another sudden, tragic, and unexplained loss of life. To those who have been harmed in this attack and to all their families and friends, please be assured that, during this time of fear and pain, the clergy and faithful of our parishes stand with you, recognizing the pain that has been inflicted in your hearts, and we want to you to know that we are firmly at your side to help in any way we can. To this end, His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and I stand together in prayer for you and all your loved ones.

To all the members of the Michigan State University Police Department and all other law enforcement officers that responded to this call, who put themselves into harm's way and ensured that the campus was made safe, I am forever grateful for your service and sacrifice to protect our community. This gratitude is extended further to all the EMTs and other first responders, who came forward to save and deliver those who were harmed, and to the University's faculty and staff, who went to great lengths to shelter the students. Likewise, I would be remiss to not express my deepest and most sincere appreciation for the Medical Staff of Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, who have been working tirelessly to protect, heal, and restore those who have been harmed in this vicious attack.

And to my brother clergy with equal love and gratitude, I thank each and every one of you who have tended to the spiritual damage that this attack has caused throughout our community, both at Michigan State University and in the rest of the state. These times of catastrophe bring hardship to many. So, what can we do in the face of this evil? We can all join together in prayer for those harmed, for their families, their friends, their classmates, and all those who have felt this loss. Furthermore, let us pray for the recovery of those who are healing and for those who are helping them to heal. Most especially, let us pray for the souls of those who so tragically lost their lives, that our Good Lord may grant them peace and repose. We know that despite this great evil that stands against us, when we stand together, we stand strong.

With Heartfelt Prayers,

+NICHOLAS  
Metropolitan of Detroit