Astoria, November 4, 2026

Dear St. Demetrios Faculty and Staff,

As the new school year gets underway, I want to begin by thanking each of you. The care, patience, and faith you bring to our students every day are at the heart of what makes St. Demetrios special, and they do not go unnoticed by the Parish Council or by our Cathedral family.

For generations, St. Demetrios has served as a vital religious, educational, and cultural center for the Greek Orthodox community in Astoria and for the entire Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Our Parish and our School are woven into the history and vibrancy of our community in Astoria, and they remain an important touchstone for Greek Orthodox families across the City and the country. We are proud of that legacy, and as parish leadership, we regard its care and preservation as a sacred responsibility.

Because you are such an important part of this community, I also want to speak with you plainly about the challenges we face. In recent years St. Demetrios, like private religious schools across the nation, has experienced shifting demographics and declining enrollment, which have placed growing pressure on the finances of both the School and the Cathedral. We are deeply grateful that His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros has made the health of our School a priority for the Archdiocese, providing direct support and working alongside us to identify a path that will allow the School to continue operating and to thrive, while building lasting sustainability. This fall, together with Father Anargyros, Mr. Skordas, the Parish Council, our School Board, and the Archdiocese, we will be taking the next steps in discerning that path forward.

To support this work, and with the blessing of His Eminence, the Archdiocese has engaged a team of K-12 education specialists from Alvarez & Marsal ("A&M"). The A&M team brings experience in school operations, financial management, and academics, along with a depth of experience helping religious K-12 schools build a sustainable future. Building on an initial review of the School, the team will be visiting the campus, meeting with our leaders, and speaking with members of our faculty and staff.

What we learn through this process will help inform the planning and decision-making through which the School, the Parish, and the Archdiocese will determine the changes needed to support the lasting success of St. Demetrios. I want to be clear: we are at the beginning stages of analysis and planning, and no decisions have been made regarding specific programs, offerings, or individual roles at the School.

We understand that a process like this naturally raises questions, and for some, concern. Please direct your questions to Mr. Skordas, who will help us gather them and respond. We will communicate frequently and openly with faculty, staff, families, and the broader St. Demetrios community. As we learn more, you will hear it from School and Parish leadership first. We expect to have more information to share with you by the end of December.

We are hopeful about the future of our School and our community. We believe that by planning carefully and honestly today, and by working through this together, we can ensure that St. Demetrios remains a place where children grow in faith and learning for many generations to come.

We ask for your patience and your prayers, and we thank you for your trust, your faith, and your continued dedication to our students.

Prayerfuly with gratitude,

Rev. Gregory-Telemachos Stamkopoulos
Superintendent
St. Demetrios Greek-American School