



**NATIONAL FORUM
OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS**
*The musical arm of the Archdiocese that strengthens and perpetuates
Greek Orthodox liturgical music in America*



Position Statement Regarding

NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Each year, on the first Sunday in October (on or after the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist, the patron saint of church musicians), parishes across the Archdiocese of America celebrate **NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY**. This commemoration was inaugurated by His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America in 1982, and has been re-affirmed by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America.

NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY is a day set aside to honor the contributions of local choir members, chanters, and music educators who serve their churches through the hymnology of our Orthodox Church. In addition, it is a day when we recognize the work of the Metropolis Church Music Federations as well as the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. These church music ministries strive to enhance the development of church choirs, chanters, church school sacred music programs, and liturgical music at Metropolis and Archdiocesan levels.

To these ends, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians encourages local parishes to use **NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY** to recognize the contributions of church musicians at three levels each year:

- to honor your **LOCAL CHURCH MUSICIANS**: your choir director and choir members, your chanters, and other church musicians for their service to the parish;
- to reaffirm your support of your **METROPOLIS CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION** and its activities; and
- to make a yearly contribution to the **NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRIES FUND**, which supports the national music education projects of the **NATIONAL FORUM** and the Metropolis Church Music Federations. [Note, previous donations totaling \$425,000 were used to establish the Visiting Scholars Program in Church Music at Holy Cross School of Theology and the Liturgical Music Room at the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Center.]

The National Forum has resources and materials available to assist local parishes and choirs in developing appropriate programs for **NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY**. Further information is available by contacting the National Chairman and/or the President of your Metropolis Church Music Federation.

(Adopted July 1986; Reviewed and updated 1997, 2004, 2015)