



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

---

Rev. Michael Lambakis  
The Assistant Clergy  
Mr. Andrew Savas, Council President  
The Faithful Members  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
3511 Yoakum Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77006-4388

December 26, 2008

Beloved in the Lord,

In this life joys and sorrows are always with us. Yet in our Christian life, we know that no sorrow is lasting, but only the joy which comes from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is why our Lord came into the world: to do away with evil and sorrow and to grant to all believers His joy and His peace which will be eternal.

At this time your beloved parish is experiencing sorrow which I pray and hope is only temporary. We are all members of the Body of Christ, His Church; therefore, no one can ever take away the joy which our Lord Jesus Christ has given to us.

Nevertheless, I am deeply saddened to inform you that your former proistamenos, Father Gabriel Karambis, was relieved of all his priestly duties by me by letter on December 12, 2008. A Spiritual Court of the Metropolis of Denver, convened on December 23, 2008, concurred with this action, and further recommended that the case of Father Karambis be reviewed by the Spiritual Court of Second Instance (Eparchial Synod).

What I wish to share with you is that the reason for Father Karambis's suspension had nothing to do with the parish or the parishioners. His suspension does not pertain to any financial improprieties against the parish, nor to any misconduct involving minors or parishioners.

The reason I relieved him of his duties had to do with his own personal life and how it negatively reflected on the holy priesthood. Since this is the only criterion I used in my responsibilities as your Metropolitan to excuse Father Karambis from his duties – a decision which he also understands – please allow him to deal quietly and constructively with his issues, no matter how painful they are.

I urge each one of you to continue to pray for the growth and progress of your holy parish, so that it will always be a shining beacon of hope and of salvation for God's people who are members and who attend for purposes of prayer. Please, also pray for Father Karambis and all people of faith who continue to struggle in this life to ward off the temptations of evil "and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:7), and to remain committed to Christ, His Church and His coming Kingdom.

With paternal blessings and love,

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver