

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey

Born in New York City on September 20, 1961 to John and Magdalene Kourounis, Metropolitan Evangelos attended the Greek-American parochial schools of St. Eleftherios and St. Spyridon in New York City. In 1979 he enrolled in Hellenic College, Brookline, Massachusetts from which he graduated in 1983 and then continued his studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1986 with a Masters of Divinity Degree.

In 1987-88 he attended the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey of the University of Geneva, Switzerland from which he received a Certificate of Ecumenical Studies.

He was ordained to the Diaconate on February 1, 1987 at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Eleftherios in Manhattan and to the Holy Priesthood on July 30, 1989 by Bishop Philotheos of Meloa at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in New York City.

Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America elevated him to Archimandrite on March 30, 1991 at Ss. Catherine and George Greek Orthodox Church in Astoria, New York. He served as Deacon to the Orthodox Center of Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambesy, Geneva during 1987-1988, as Deacon to Archbishop Iakovos and as Assistant Director of Archives of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese during 1988-1989. From August 1989 until September 1993 he served as assistant to the Proistamenos of St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria, New York.

Prior to his election to the Episcopacy, Fr. Evangelos served as Chancellor of the Diocese of New Jersey from 1993 to 1999. He also served as Director of the Registry of the Archdiocese from 1996 to 2001, and as President of the Spiritual Court for the Archdiocesan District from 1996 until April 2003.

From October 2001 until his election to the Episcopacy, he served as Proistamenos of the Hellenic Orthodox Community of Astoria "St. Demetrios Cathedral".

On April 12, 2003, upon the recommendation of and nomination by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Sacred and Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, under the presidency of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew unanimously elected Archimandrite Evangelos as spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

Archbishop Demetrios of America, together with Archbishop Iakovos, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and several other hierarchs, consecrated the newly elected Metropolitan of New Jersey, Evangelos, to the Episcopacy on Saturday, May 10, 2003 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.

The enthronement of Metropolitan Evangelos as the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey which includes the mid-Atlantic states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the Greater Philadelphia area, took place on Sunday, May 11, 2003 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, New Jersey.

With the new charter granted to the archdiocese by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 2003, the Diocese of New Jersey, which was established in 1977, was elevated to a Metropolis. Therefore, Metropolitan Evangelos is the first Hierarch enthroned as Metropolitan of New Jersey.

The Metropolis is comprised of fifty-four parishes in New Jersey, the Greater Philadelphia area, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.