

My Beloved Ones,

*“...let us always be ready to make a new start. If you fall, rise up. If you fall again, rise up again.”
(St. Peter of Damascus)*

As we have celebrated the Birth of our Savior and now begin a new year, I greet you with love and joy in the Name of our Incarnate Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

For me, and for you also, I think, it seems almost impossible that we are already at the beginning of a new year. Indeed we give thanks to God for what has happened in our Metropolis and our Church in the past year. Although we may have encountered problems and difficulties, I know that we have been sustained by our faith and the grace of our Lord.

At this time, in our businesses and our everyday lives, we “close our books” on the past year and make plans for the future. Yet sometimes we forget to do the same in our own personal lives. We should take this time review the past year, and to consider where we are spiritually. Let us also with prayer and humility to make our own resolutions for this New Year. I pray that we will set new goals for ourselves, goals that will deepen our relationship with Christ. After all, in the new year, we have the opportunity to begin again.

Ahead of us is the unknown future. Many people try to predict what will happen, but truly no one knows what lies ahead. The only thing that we know for certain that it is God Who leads us, forward, on the path to salvation.

Therefore as followers of Christ, we begin the year of our Lord 2016 with hope, trusting in the Lord, as St. Paul reminds us, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

With this in mind, as we begin the Year of our Lord 2016, I ask for your prayers, and your continued support for the mission and ministries of our beloved Metropolis of Atlanta. I pray that the gifts of His peace and love will be yours always. Wishing you a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year, I remain,

With paternal blessings and with much love in our Incarnate Lord,

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta

