



Metropolitan Serapion

COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

January 9, 2025  
Tubah 1, 1741

## Pastoral Message Regarding the January 2025 Wildfires in Southern California

*“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Ps 49:15)*

**My dear beloved children of the Church,**

Blessings and peace be with you all.

We and the inhabitants of Southern California are facing one of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of Southern California, the raging fires that have spread throughout different areas and the significant damage it has inflicted on people, property, works, and the economy.

We pray that our good Lord may protect us all from this calamity as He protected the Three Holy Youth in the midst of the flames of the fiery furnace (Da 3:27). We ask our good Lord to send His angel to extinguish the fires, as we pray, “The angel came down, stopped the fire and it became cool” (*Tenen* hymn). We have trust in the love and care of our good Lord to turn this disaster into a good thing, as we read in Scripture, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God” (Ro 8:28).

We pray the Lord may repose the souls of those who departed and console their families.

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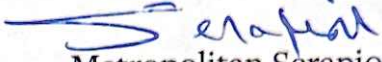
We pray for those who lost their homes, properties, or works.

We pray for those who are suffering and in pain because of this disaster.

I ask and wish that all our churches lift up their hearts in prayers for the Lord to help us in this disaster.

I wish that we may come together and help each other to pass this difficulty in peace.

May the Lord protect you all and keep you safe.

  
Metropolitan Serapion

*Bishop of Los Angeles and  
Metropolitan of Southern California and Hawaii*