**The Archdiocese functions on four administrative levels:**

1. The [Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople](https://www.patriarchate.org/home) – The Patriarchate is the source from which the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America receives its administrative authority, spiritual leadership, and the supply of [Holy Chrism](../All%20Pages/6-Sacrament%20of%20Holy%20Chrism.htm). It is located in Constantinople (in what is now, [Istanbul, Turkey](https://www.google.com/maps/place/%C4%B0stanbul,+Turkey/@40.8429602,26.5268443,6.5z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x14cab6515a60157b:0x22ac9af4915a1de8!8m2!3d41.1936494!4d28.943539?hl=en)) and is governed by the [Holy and Sacred Synod](https://www.patriarchate.org/holy-and-sacred-synod), headed by [His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew](https://www.patriarchate.org/biography). Please watch the [Enthronement of His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWKFKt8NVGw).
2. The [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](http://www.goarch.org/resources/monthly_readings?DL=EN&month=7&year=2016&x=24&y=10) – The Archdiocese functions under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and coordinates the work and ministries of the Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan District. It is governed in accordance with the Faith, Tradition, and [Holy Canons of the Church](http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7071) along with the provisions of the Charter, the [Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/documents/upr) (known as the GOAA), and the decisions of the [Holy Eparchial Synod](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjlq7ii773KAhVLw2MKHRIoAowQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goarch.org%2Farchdiocese%2Feparchial&usg=AFQjCNFbA2imaSPknzKoku9AmkBTqvHjLA&sig2=TBwyJtAhxDIEtcn0RtOvBQ) and the [Clergy-Laity Congress](http://sanfran.goarch.org/news/metropolis-clergy-laity-assembly-feb-29-mar-1-2016/). Through its various departments and offices, the Archdiocese serves both the needs of the Metropolises and parishes. It functions under the leadership of the Archbishop, the Holy Eparchial Synod and the [Archdiocese Council](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/administration/council/index_html) (which comprised of both clergy and lay representatives from each Metropolis). Please watch the [Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=302K32MRFOI).
3. [The Metropolis](http://sanfran.goarch.org/metropolis) –The Metropolis is an ecclesiastical district/area of the Archdiocese, headed by its respective Metropolitan, who is a member of the Holy Eparchial Synod. The Metropolitan in their Metropolises and the Archbishop in the Direct Archdiocesan District are assisted in their ministry by the Local Metropolis and District Councils. These Councils are advisory and consultative bodies to the Metropolitan and Archbishop and are concerned with the life and growth of the Metropolis, its ministries, institutions and finances ([GOAA Regulations 12:1](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/documents/upr)). Please read about [His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos](http://sanfran.goarch.org/metropolis).
4. The Parish –The [Parish is the Local Eucharistic Community](../Common%20Page%20Header/Contact%20us.htm), in which faithful Orthodox Christian gather together to hear the Good News of the Resurrection of Christ and live the sacramental life of the Church. It is the place where God’s People are spiritually nourished in order to live more fully as Christians and engage in the mission which Christ has given us: to share His Gospel with one and all and to serve those in need. The Parish functions administratively under the leadership of the [Parish Priest](../All%20Pages/2-Clergy%20Page.htm) and is assisted by the Parish Council, with the guidance and supervision of the Metropolitan or Archbishop. Each Parish is governed in accordance with teaching of [Holy Scripture](http://www.serfes.org/orthodox/scripturesinthechurch.htm), [Holy Tradition](http://orthodoxwiki.org/Holy_Tradition), the [Holy Canons of the Church](http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7071), and the Regulations of the Archdiocese. Please read about his [Reverend Fr. Konstantinos Douvikas](../All%20Pages/2-Clergy%20Page.htm).