



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY – RETREAT DETAILS

Altar Servers Retreat ~ February 16-18th, 2018 ~ Saint Basil Academy, Garrison NY

Dear Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

As we began this New Year, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL preparations for the **Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat** are underway. The event will be held at **Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY** from **February 16-18, 2018**, and is intended for altar servers of all ages who currently serve, and for those with an interest in serving in the altar. The retreat is open to other jurisdictions and nearby dioceses, so please spread the word beyond your parishes.

A note concerning chaperones: We welcome clergy, fathers, and male youth leaders to accompany the participants and act as chaperones. However, due to increased attendance at recent retreats and space limitations at Saint Basil's, we ask that parishes limit the number of adult participants and chaperones accompanying your group. For every 6 participants, only 1 chaperone is needed. Our main focus is to ensure that the maximum number of youth can benefit from their time together and be properly accommodated. **Also, please note that all chaperones must fill out the required paperwork.**

There is a **firm deadline** for registrants, so please have forms submitted online through the Department of Youth Ministry Website no later than **no later than FEBRUARY 2nd**: <http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>.

If you have any questions about the retreat, please do not hesitate to contact me. May God bless you abundantly!

With love in Christ,

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ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT

The Annual Altar Servers Retreat is scheduled for **February 16-18, 2018 at Saint Basil Academy located at [79 St Basil's Rd, Garrison, NY 10524](#)**. There is **no charge** to participate in this three-day event. Participants may start arriving for check-in on Friday, February 16, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Venue: *Saint Basil Academy* sits on the Hudson River across from West Point Military Academy, approximately an hour north of New York City. During their free time, participants will be able to take advantage of the center's indoor gym/basketball court, Olympic-size indoor swimming pool, and quaint chapel.

Sleeping arrangements and attire: All members of the group will be staying in dorm-style buildings. Bedding will be supplied by the Academy. All participants should bring their own toiletries, along with proper clothes for the liturgical services. Shorts or sweats and bathing suits should be brought for athletic and outdoor activities. We will be traveling outdoors from venue to venue, so be sure to pack warm clothes and a jacket.

**** ALL SERVERS ARE TO BRING THEIR GOLD ROBE/STICHARION FOR SERVICES ****

Chaperones: Since we are looking to have as many of our youth present for this event as possible, we will also need chaperones. One chaperone will be needed for every six participants. We welcome clergy, fathers, and male youth leaders to accompany the participants and act as chaperones. **As a reminder, all chaperones must fill out the Chaperone Registration form/agreement.**

Duration of stay: Participants who are staying only one night may be picked up on Saturday, February 17, after Vespers in the Main Building. If they are staying until Sunday, February 18, they can be picked up after the Divine Liturgy and morning meal in the Main Building. All parents and guardians are invited to Sunday's Divine Liturgy at 9:30am. Archbishop Michael will remain until the last participant is picked up.

How do I sign up? Registration forms **must** be filled out for each participant and chaperone no later than **FEBRUARY 2ND**. **Saint Basil's Academy can no longer accommodate late registrants.**

Please fill out and submit your registration forms online:

- <http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>

Please contact Danielle Geeza with any questions!

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Friday, February 16, 2018

Check-in starts at 6:30 PM. Come hungry: pizza will be served! There will be a welcome meeting and free time once the majority of participants arrive.

7:30 PM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be needed on the basketball court and at the dorms)

9:30 PM.....Evening Prayers

11:00 PM.....Lights Out

Saturday, February 17, 2018

8:00 AM.....Meet in Chapel for Choir Rehearsal

8:30 AM.....Greeting of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, Vesting, Third & Sixth Hours

9:00 AM.....Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM.....Brunch

11:30 AM.....Session 1

12:45 PM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be needed at the gym, pool, and at the dorms)

2:00 PM.....Session 2

3:15 PM.....Mid-day snack available in the Main Building Dining Room

3:30 PM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be needed at the gym and at the dorms)

5:00 PM.....Vespers

6:00 PM.....Dinner

**** Participants who are not staying overnight will start to be picked up****

7:00 PM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be needed at the gym, dorms, and Main Building)

9:00 PM.....Evening Session with Archbishop Michael

11:00 PM.....Lights Out

Sunday, February 18, 2018

9:30 AM.....Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM.....Rite of Forgiveness

12:00 PM.....Brunch. Remaining participants should be picked up after Brunch.

*** Archbishop Michael will remain at St. Basil's until the last participant has been picked up***