

**The Diocese of New York and New Jersey
2014 Lenten Youth Retreat**

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church – 285 French Hill Road, Wayne, NJ
April 4-5, 2014**

“Miracles in our Midst”

Friday, April 4, 2014

6:30 PM – Arrival & Registration

7:30 PM – Dinner

8:30 PM – **SESSION I:** Welcome, Introduction of Theme – Icebreaker activities
The Miracles in the Gospels

9:30 PM – Snack and Movie

10:30 PM – Evening Prayers

11:00 PM – Lights Out!

Saturday, April 5, 2014

8:30 AM – Breakfast

9:00 AM – Akathist to The Theotokos – Church

10:00 AM – **SESSION II: Modern Day Miracles in the Orthodox Church**

10:45 AM – Break

11:00 AM – Discussion Groups

Small Group Discussions – 7th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades

12:00 PM – Lunch/Group Picture

1:00 PM – Free Time/Olympic Games

2:00 PM – **SESSION III: Miracles – They Are Real**

3:00 PM – Break

3:15 PM – **SESSION IV: Wrap-up Session**

All Groups together

4:15 PM – Free Time/Confessions

5:00 PM – Vespers

6:00 PM – Departure

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

2014 Lenten Youth Retreat

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church - 285 French Hill Road - Wayne, NJ

April 4-5, 2014

The diocese will host an **Overnight Lenten Youth Retreat at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne NJ, for students in grades 7-12, on Friday-Saturday, April 4-5, 2014.** The Lenten Youth Retreat is entitled *“Miracles in our Midst.”*

All necessary forms and documents will be sent via email attachment and by US Mail to the clergy of the diocese. Parental permission forms, waiver/agreements, and registration fees must be submitted by **March 31, 2014.** The registration fee for the weekend retreat is **\$35 per student** and covers all costs associated with the retreat. No youth will be turned away due to cost! If for any reason the cost is prohibitive, a “good will” offering of any amount will be accepted ... no questions asked. This information will be kept confidential. Check-in for retreat participants is **6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4.** Dinner will be served that evening at 7:30 p.m. Pick-up and departure is **Saturday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m.** Parents are invited to join the retreat experience by participating in Vespers at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church on Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. His Grace, Bishop Michael hopes to be present during the retreat.

Please note: Students will not be allowed to leave the retreat facility unless a parent or legal guardian is there to pick them up or unless otherwise specified on the permission form.

Finally, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox students are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity for Orthodox young people to invite a non-Orthodox friend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father Jason Vansuch (*Retreat Coordinator/Chairperson for the Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry*) at **(716) 875-4222** or email: jvansuch@hotmail.com

THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK and NEW JERSEY
2014 – ANNUAL DIOCESAN LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT - 2014

“Miracles in our Midst”

Dear Reverend Fathers:

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Greetings to all of you, your families, and the faithful of your parishes during this First Week of Great Lent. As we begin our Lenten Journey, we are once again preparing for The Annual Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat which will be held at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne, NJ, on Friday-Saturday, April 4-5, 2014. The main focus of this Lenten Youth Retreat is to bring the youth of our Diocese and their friends together in prayer, Christian fellowship, education, and lots of fun!

Under the guidance and direction of His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, the participants will learn the Church's understanding and teaching of keeping God real in our everyday lives. They will hear stories and lessons about how God and the Church can help and guide them, as they study the meaning and the presence of miracles throughout the history of our Church, beginning with the time of Our Lord.

As this is a Diocesan event, His Grace plans to join us for the retreat. The youth of our diocese and their friends will be able to spend time with His Grace in prayer and in fellowship.

Since we are looking to have as many participants present for this event as possible, we will also need chaperones. In addition to Fr. Jason, Fr. Paul Kucynda, and Danielle Geeza, we will have some of the parents serving as the chaperones for this event. If you or any parents that are accompanying the youth are able to offer your time and be a chaperone, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact us as soon as possible so that we can begin to make arrangements.

In preparing for this event, please find enclosed with this letter, the enclosed flyers which contain the schedule of events for the retreat as well as important information pertaining to this event (flyer, registration forms, waiver forms, etc.). If you would please fill out, sign and return the forms to Holy Resurrection Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne, NJ 07470, no later than MARCH 31, we would greatly appreciate it.

If you have any questions about the retreat or if you are eager to personally participate in this labor of love alongside Bishop Michael – then please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to hearing from you. May GOD continue to bless and guide you, your families, and the faithful of your parishes. Have a Blessed Lenten Journey!

With Love in Christ,

Rev. Jason Vansuch
Chairperson
The Department of Youth Ministry
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

(716) 875-4222 (home)
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jvansuch@hotmail.com

Rev. James Worthington
Vice-Chairperson
The Department of Youth Ministry
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The Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Annual Lenten Youth Retreat – April 4-5, 2014

For more information, questions, or inquiries, please contact:
 Priest Jason Vansuch at (716) 875-4222 jvansuch@hotmail.com

Participant information	
Name: _____	Parish: _____
Address: _____	Diocese: _____
City or Town: _____	Home Phone: _____
State/Province: _____	Parent's Cell: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____	Student's E-mail: _____
Age and Date of Birth: _____	Parent's E-mail: _____
Primary Physician	Health Insurance Carrier
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Group Number: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	Policy Number: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Allergies and pre-existing conditions: _____ (use back if necessary)	
Guardian Permission/Release	
I am the parent or legal guardian of the participant named above. I hereby release the Orthodox Church in America, The Diocese of New York and New Jersey and Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, their agents and employees from any and all liability for all personal injuries known or unknown that the youth named above may incur due to reasons unrelated but not limited to negligence by participating in activities conducted, sponsored, or associated with the even stated above.	
In the event of an emergency I, or my spouse, may be reached at the following telephone numbers: 1 st #: _____ 2 nd #: _____	
Also, in the event that I cannot be reached in the case of emergency, I do hereby authorize a physician selected by the coordinator of this event to administer emergency treatment including medications, diagnostic tests, surgery, or other medical intervention deemed necessary by the physician.	
I, the undersigned, have read this release and understand all its terms. I execute it voluntarily on behalf of myself and the participant named above and with full knowledge of the significance to bind all persons. In witness whereof, I have signed this release on the date indicated below.	
Name (please print clearly): _____ Relationship: _____	
Signature: _____ Date: _____	
Person to release my child to at the conclusion of event: _____	
I am the person who is authorized to pick up this participant (signature): _____	

Please return Forms and payment to:
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church 285 French Hill Road Wayne, NJ 07470

**The Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Orthodox Church in America
Annual Lenten Youth Retreat
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church – Wayne, NJ**

Permission Slip and Waiver Form

Permission is given for my child, _____, to participate in the following activity: **The Annual Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat on April 4-5, 2014.**

It is agreed and understood that _____ will act as a chaperone for my child and that, if necessary, other affiliates of the church may also be called upon to act as chaperones for this activity.

As part of my permission for this activity/field trip, I also understand, acknowledge, and agree that in having my child participate in the above stated activity, I am agreeing to hold the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Bishop, along with any and all participating churches and missions, along with any of their agents, servants, and/or assigns, including any and all chaperones associated with the event, harmless for any and all injuries arising out of my child's participation in said activity.

In the event that my child is in an accident of any kind while attending the above-described activity and requires medical treatment and/or hospitalization, I hereby give my consent for medical treatment or care of my child and in this regard also agree to hold the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Bishop, and any participating churches and missions, along with any of their agents, servants, and/or assigns, including any and all chaperones associated with the event, harmless for any and all injuries arising out of any medical care provided to my child.

I also understand that if my child uses, carries, or purchases alcohol or drugs while participating in the above described activity, he or she shall, with notification to me, be immediately sent home at his or her own expense or my expense. I have full knowledge that other violations of proper conduct and behavior may be subject to the same procedure mentioned above or to other disciplinary action.

Parent(s) Signature _____ **Date:** _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

Alternative contact:

Name and relationship: _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

Please check here if you would like to be called before treatment is given: Yes ___ No ___

Insurance information:

Carrier _____ Group _____
Number _____
Contract Number _____

Participant Behavior Contract

As an applicant to this Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat, I, _____ agree to the following concerning participation at the retreat or at any other location visited as part of the Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat.

Participant's Agreement

- I agree to bring only those items approved by the Event directors (see retreat's packing list) and to leave home those things which are neither appropriate nor allowed by the Event. This includes radios, tape and CD players, computer games and other luxuries.
- I agree to refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs other than those approved or specified by the Event director, or partaking of any other prohibited substance.
- I agree to respect the authority of the Event staff, following their directions and accepting their decisions. This includes instructions for "lights out," as well as to cease any other activities for whatever reasons that they might have.
- I agree to attend all Event church services as designated by the Event directors, to arrive on time, and to remain there until dismissed.
- I agree to respect the needs and feelings of others, to show kindness to all that I come into contact with, and to help out whenever I can.
- I agree to refrain from any and all unchaste language, gesturing, and behaviors. This includes using profanity, engaging in or seeking to engage in sexual behavior, dressing or behaving immodestly, or in general, willfully giving into or leading others into temptation.
- I agree to refrain from any and all violence, including physically or verbally abusing my fellow participants, bullying, fighting, yelling, and in general losing my temper. I also agree to leave at home any items which are weapons or weapon-like.
- I agree to respond to all harsh words, threats, taunts, insults, and attacks without returning like for like, "eye for an eye," but to seek a peaceful resolution to the problem, including but not limited to seeking the help of retreat staff or simply walking away from the situation.
- I agree to respect the views, opinions, beliefs, religious or otherwise, of my fellow participants, even if I do not agree with them.
- I agree to pursue the fun and enjoyment of this retreat experience whole-heartedly and in the spirit of Christian fellowship!

Having read and understood the above Participant's Behavior Contract and having agreed to follow these policies during my participation at this Orthodox Christian Retreat program, I also understand that should I fail to comply with these policies, the consequences may include, but are not limited to, being prohibited from participating in some or all activities, being sent home, being prohibited from returning to this camp program, or having less of a good time as I and everyone else should.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT'S PARENT: _____

DATE: _____

Mail this Form with your registration/permission form to:

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church 285 French Hill Road Wayne, NJ 07470

PARTICIPANT'S PACKING LIST

All pieces of equipment and clothing must be marked with the participant's name. **BRING THIS LIST WITH YOU TO THE RETREAT**, and be sure to check this list at the end of the retreat as well as before to prevent lost items!

Basic Gear

- Sleeping Bag
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Comb or Brush
- Soap and Shampoo
- Deodorant
- 2 large Bath Towels
- Pillow and Sheets
- Laundry Bag
- Flashlight
- Alarm Clock
- Medication: Complete instructions must be given to retreat director

Clothing

- Socks: at least one pair per day
- Underwear: one pair per day
- Pajamas/Sweats
- Jeans/ Khakis
- Coat, Hat & Gloves
- Gym Clothes
- Sweaters/ Sweatshirt
- Shoes: At least one pair of Sneakers and Dress Shoes
- Church Clothes:
Male: Dress Shirt and Nice Pants
Female: Dress or Skirt and Blouse

Other Items

- Camera and Film
- Notebook and Pen
- Small Bible
- Small Icon
- Small Pillow
- Reading Material
- Good Attitude

Reminder List

(This space is provided so that you can make a list of other articles you don't want to forget.)

Things to leave at Home

- Tobacco Products
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Food
- TV's, Radios, Cassette or CD/DVD players
- Cell Phones
- Computer Games/Gameboys
- Immodest or Inappropriate Clothing
- Inappropriate Material
- Valuables including jewelry and large amounts of cash
- Bad attitude