



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY – RETREAT DETAILS

Altar Servers Retreat ~ March 1-3, 2019 ~ Saint Basil Academy, Garrison NY

Dear Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

As we began this New Year, it is with great anticipation that, 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 **March 1-3, 2019**, and is intended for altar servers who currently serve, and for those with an interest in serving in the altar. The retreat is open to nearby dioceses and other jurisdictions so please spread the word beyond your parishes.

Our retreat leader will be **Archpriest Jason Vansuch, pastor of St. George Orthodox Church in Buffalo, NY and former Youth Department Chairperson**. It is a blessing to have him back for the weekend where he will lead a "Teaching Liturgy" on Saturday morning. Father Jason will pause the service at various points in order to explain what is going on. Those in attendance will learn why Divine Liturgy is served each week and what is happening during the Liturgy. It will be a journey taken together to better understand and experience the heavenly, beautiful worship that we are privileged to participate in as Orthodox Christians.

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 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th**:
<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 **March 1-3, 2019** 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, March 1, 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, beautiful grounds, and quaint chapel.

Sleeping arrangements and attire: All members of the group will be staying in dorm-style buildings. Bedding and towels will be supplied by the Academy. All participants should bring their own toiletries, along with proper clothes for the liturgical services. Shorts or sweats 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. It is always cold!!!

**** 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, March 2, after Vespers in the Main Building. If they are staying until Sunday, March 3, 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 **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th**. **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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