



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

Department of Youth Ministry – Retreat Details

Annual Girls Retreat ~ November 22-24, 2019 ~ Camp Shiloh, 753 Burnt Meadow Road, Hewitt, NJ

Dear Diocesan Clergy and Faithful:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

It is with great joy that I greet all of you to announce the **Annual Girls Retreat!** The 3-day event will be held our newest venue, **Camp Shiloh** located in **Hewitt, NJ**, from **November 22-24, 2019**. The retreat is open to **young women in Middle School and High School** not only in our Diocese, but also to those in other jurisdictions and nearby dioceses. Please spread the word beyond your parishes! There is no fee in order to attend.

The theme of this year's retreat is **"Come as you are: A friend loves at all times!"** We will have a Pan-Orthodox panel of speakers, including myself, who will address the topic of friendship and the importance cultivating friendships not only in our parish communities, but also applying our Orthodox Christian behaviors in our day-to-day encounters with non-Orthodox friends. Panel members include Matushka Dennise Kraus, Lara Haluszczak, and Maria Pappas.

There is a **FIRM DEADLINE** for all registrants. Please submit forms online through the Department of Youth Ministry Website (<http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>) **no later than November 8th**. I need to provide an initial headcount two weeks in advance.

A note concerning chaperones: We will need parents/youth leaders to accompany participants and act as chaperones while on-site. However, due to increased attendance at recent retreats and space limitations, **at this point in time, we only need 4 chaperones**. Priority is given to all youth who wish to attend and the minimum number of chaperones necessary to ensure that we have a safe weekend. **The number of chaperones over our past few events has overwhelmed our participants, so this needs to be addressed in such a manner.** If participants need to be driven to the event, I ask that parishes limit the number of adult chaperones staying the weekend to only 1 adult per parish. Please direct any concerns to myself and Fr. Martin Kraus, Youth Department Chaplain, by emailing nynjocayouth@gmail.com.

1. The number of chaperones for this retreat will be strictly aligned with the Diocesan Policy of having 1 chaperone for every 6 participants (ex: 25 participants, only 4 chaperones).
2. **Chaperones** will be selected on a **first come, first served basis**. **Please only send 1 chaperone from your parish.**
3. If any additional adults/clergy (non-chaperones) **arrive unannounced WITHOUT having registered with the intention of staying for the weekend OR only for a day, the venue WILL NOT allow this** – the Diocese must pay for all expenses upfront prior to the event.

We built a wonderful partnership with Camp Shiloh after such a successful Lenten Teen Retreat this past March, **so please be respectful of the guidelines set forth above, particularly the registration deadline of November 8th**. Again, the Diocese must provide an initial headcount by that date—**please do not delay. After that date I cannot guarantee participation.**

I ask that you personally speak to your middle school and high school female parishioners, and their parents, in order to encourage attendance. If you have any questions about the retreat, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing both old and new faces at this event!

With love in Christ,

Danielle Geeza
Chairperson, The Department of Youth Ministry
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V. Rev. Archpriest Martin Kraus
Chaplain, Department of Youth Ministry
Phone: (516) 483-3649 | Email: nynjocayouth@gmail.com



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RETREAT DETAILS

The Annual Girls Retreat is scheduled for **November 22-24, 2019** at **Camp Shiloh** located at [753 Burnt Meadow Road in Hewitt, NJ](#). There is **no charge** to participate in this three-day event. Participants may start arriving for check-in on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00pm. The weekend will officially kick-off around 8:00pm following dinner.

“Come as you are: A friend loves at all times!” is this year’s retreat theme. We have a new set up this year: a panel of speakers who will discuss friendships. The weekend will be laid back and allow for plenty of free time, including hiking and other activities (weather permitting).

Venue: [Camp Shiloh](#) is a Christian Retreat Center in Northern New Jersey offering excellent accommodations, plenty of activities, a huge gymnasium, game room, and many opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors with hiking, campfires, etc.

Sleeping arrangements and attire: All members of the group will be staying in a dorm style building. **Participants and chaperones must bring a sleeping bag and pillow, as the venue does not supply bedding.** We will be traveling outdoors, so be sure to pack appropriate clothes and a jacket. Casual or athletic attire should be brought for daytime and outdoor activities, and church clothes for Sunday Liturgy. **See suggested packing list included in this packet.**

Chaperones: We welcome parents and youth leaders to accompany the participants and act as chaperones. However, due to increased attendance at recent retreats and space limitations, **we ask that parishes limit the number of adult chaperones accompanying your group to 1 adult. The number of chaperones over our past few events has overwhelmed our participants, so this needs to be addressed in such a manner.** The number of chaperones for this retreat will be strictly aligned with the Diocesan Policy of having 1 chaperone for every 6 participants (ex: 25 participants, only 4 chaperones). Chaperones will be selected on a first come, first served basis. **If you have any concerns regarding this, please bring it to Danielle Geeza and Fr. Martin Kraus’ attention by emailing nynjocayouth@gmail.com.**

If any additional adults or clergy (non-chaperones) **arrive WITHOUT having registered with the intention of staying for the weekend OR only for a day, the venue WILL NOT allow this** as the Diocese must pay for all expenses prior to the event.

As a reminder, all chaperones must fill out the [Chaperone Registration form/agreement](#).

Duration of stay: Participants are highly encouraged to stay the full weekend from Friday-Sunday in order to get the full experience. All parents and guardians are invited to Sunday’s Divine Liturgy at 10am in the Fireside Meeting Room. Danielle Geeza 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 **NOVEMBER 8th, after that date, we cannot guarantee your participation.**

Participant Registration: [click here!](#) | Chaperone Registration: [click here!](#)

Contact Danielle Geeza with any questions!

Phone: (914) 222-1317

Email: nynjocayouth@gmail.com



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MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Danielle Geeza
HR Professional &
OCA Diocese of NY & NJ Youth Director



Lara Haluszczak
Geologist, Choir Director
& Youth Worker



Mat. Dennise Kraus
Clergy wife, former Engineer
& Mother of five ☺



Maria Pappas
Graduate Student pursuing Master of Education
degree in School Counseling & Youth Worker

As we grow in our faith, we never know who we may meet. This year's retreat will feature a panel of Orthodox Christian women whose paths have crossed serendipitously at various points in their lives. Led by our Diocesan Youth Director, Danielle Geeza, the panel will address the theme of friendship since today's society can make being a genuine, Christian friend difficult. We invite attendees to "come as you are" by bringing your full self to the retreat, knowing that although everyone is different, the greatest thing that binds us together is our Orthodox Christian faith and our love for one another. Our challenge to you: Come as you are and once the weekend ends, leave with friendships that will last a lifetime! ☺



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 22, 2019

Check-in starts at 6:00 PM.....Pizza will be served at 7pm!

****Volunteers & Chaperones, please arrive between 4:30-5:30 PM, if possible****

8:00 PM.....Welcome & Icebreakers (Fireside Meeting Room in the Adventure Lodge)

9:30 PM.....Evening Prayers

10:30 PM.....Movie

10:30 PM.....Chaperone Meeting with Youth Director and Chaplain

12:00 AM.....Lights Out

Saturday, November 23, 2019

8:00 AM.....The Akathist Hymn: “Glory to God for All Things” (Fireside)

9:00 AM.....Breakfast

10:00 AM.....Session with Speakers (Fireside)

12:00 PM.....Lunch

1:30 PM.....Free Time: Group Hike, Game Room, Gym

5:15 PM.....Confession available

5:45 PM.....Vespers

6:30 PM.....Dinner

7:30 PM.....Q&A with Speakers

8:30 PM.....Campfire with s’mores, hot chocolate, karaoke, and fellowship

12:00 AM.....Lights Out

Sunday, November, 24, 2019

10:00 AM.....Divine Liturgy (Fireside)

12:00 PM.....Brunch and Departure

****Danielle Geeza will remain at Camp Shiloh until the last participant has been picked up****



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Suggested Packing List

<p>The Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag (or twin sheets & blanket) <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas <input type="checkbox"/> Socks & sneakers (hiking) <input type="checkbox"/> Casual clothes (jeans, t-shirt, sweatshirt, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Church clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket <input type="checkbox"/> Hat & Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Shower shoes (flip flops) 	<p>Other Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook, Pen <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> Earplugs <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella <input type="checkbox"/> Snow boots (in case of winter weather)
<p>Toiletries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Soap/Shower Gel <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & toothpaste <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant <input type="checkbox"/> Brush, comb, hairdryer <input type="checkbox"/> Towel & Washcloth <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Medication 	<p>PLEASE DO NOT BRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes <input type="checkbox"/> Any valuables <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone... (We know you're going to bring this anyway... but PLEASE consider leaving it turned off and in your overnight bag during your time at the Retreat. Phones are to be kept away during services, meals, activities, and sessions. You may use them during free time, or to take photos. Focus on spending time with fellow participants and God!)

NOTE: There aren't safes at Camp Shiloh, nor locks on dorm/cabin doors – do not risk getting items lost or stolen. Camp Shiloh and the OCA Diocese of New York & New Jersey are not responsible for lost or stolen items.