

**The Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
2012 Altar Servers' Retreat**

**St. Basil's Academy, Garrison, New York**

**February 24-26th, 2012**

**Friday, February 24, 2012**

**4:00 PM** - Arrival of Participants until late evening. Participants will acclimate themselves to their quarters.

**7:00 PM** - Pizza/Refreshments will be served. Basketball court may be used.

**9:00 PM** - Evening Prayers/Confessions.

**10:30 PM** - Lights out.

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**

**9:00 AM** - Divine Liturgy.

**10:30 AM** - Breakfast.

**11:00 AM** - First Session with His Grace, Bishop Michael.

**12:00 PM** - Basketball, swimming, free time (Chaperones will be needed at the pool, on the basketball court and at the dorms).

**1:30 PM** - Lunch.

**2:00 PM** - Second Session with His Grace, Bishop Michael.

**3:30 PM** - Basketball, swimming, free time (Chaperones will be needed at the pool, on the basketball court and at the dorms).

**5:00 PM** - Vespers/Confessions.

**6:00 PM** - Dinner.

**7:00 PM** - Evening Session.

**7:00 PM** - Participants who are not staying overnight will start to be picked up.

**10:30 PM** - Lights Out

**Sunday, February 26, 2012**

**9:00 AM** - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

**11:00 AM** - Brunch. Remaining participants should be picked up after Brunch. His Grace, Bishop Michael will remain at St. Basil's until the last participant has been picked up.

Note: Each server should bring his vestments to serve at the services assigned.

# The Diocese of New York and New Jersey

## Annual Altar Server Retreat – February 24-25-26, 2011

For more information, questions, or inquiries, please contact:  
Priest Jason Vansuch at (609) 393-1234/[jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com) or  
Priest James Worthington (607) 533-1020/[adelphotheos@gmail.com](mailto:adelphotheos@gmail.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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Health Insurance Carrier

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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, and Diocese of New York and New Jersey, 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 event stated above.

In the event of an emergency I, or my spouse, may be reached at the following telephone numbers:

1<sup>st</sup> #: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> #: \_\_\_\_\_

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 to:  
**St. Vladimir Orthodox Church**  
812 Grand Street - Trenton, NJ 08610

**The Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Orthodox Church in America  
Annual Altar Server Retreat  
Saint Basil Academy, Garrison, New York  
Field Trip Permission Slip and Waiver Form**

Permission is given for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the following activity: **The Annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat** on **February 24-25-26**, 2012.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK and NEW JERSEY  
2012 – ANNUAL DIOCESAN ALTAR SERVER RETREAT - 2012  
***“BEGING CALLED TO SERVE”***

Dear Reverend Fathers:

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Greetings to all of you, your families, and the faithful of your parishes. As we begin this New Year, we are once again preparing for The Annual Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat which will be held at Saint Basil's Academy, Garrison NY from February 24-26, 2012. The main focus of this Annual Retreat is to bring the Altar Servers of our Diocese 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 basics and fundamentals of serving the Divine Services along with learning how to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Please refer to the enclosed flyers which contain the schedule of events for the day as well as important information pertaining to this event (flyer, registration forms, waiver forms, etc.)

As this is a Diocesan sponsored event, His Grace will be joining us for the entire weekend at which time the Altar Servers of our diocese will be able spend some time with His Grace in prayer and in fellowship. A special feature at the annual retreat is all participants will have an opportunity of serving with His Grace at the Divine Liturgy

As we are looking to have as many of our Altar Servers present for this event, we will also need chaperones. Currently, besides me, we will have some of our diocesan clergy serving as the chaperones for this event. If you or any adult servers/parents that are accompanying the servers 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, the second of its kind for the Altar Servers of our Diocese, please find enclosed with this letter, a registration and permission form for your children. If you would please fill out, sign and return the forms to us no later than FEBRUARY 3 that would be great. 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!

With Love in Christ,

Rev. Jason Vansuch  
Chairperson  
The Department of Youth Ministry  
Diocese of NY&NJ

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Rev. James Worthington  
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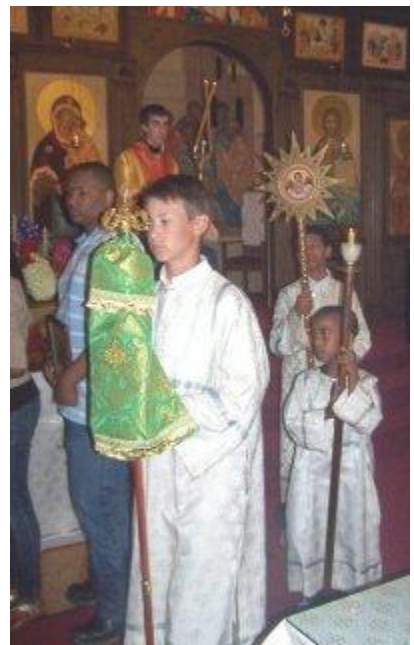
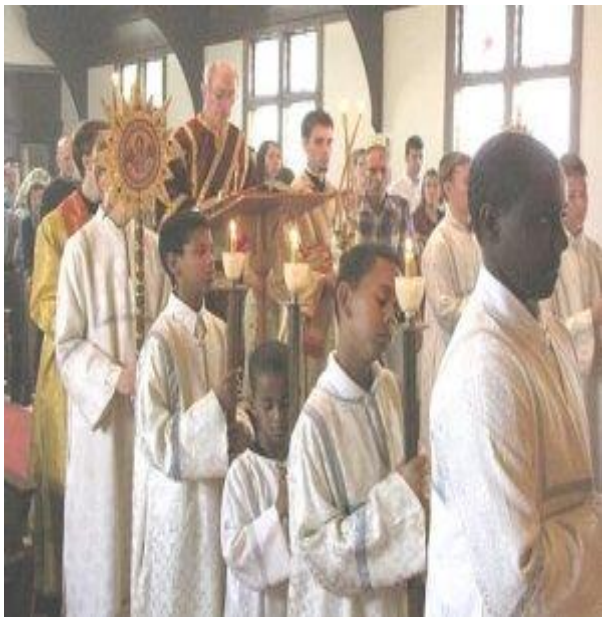
## THE ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT

The Annual Diocesan Altar Servers retreat is scheduled for **24-26 February 2012 at Saint Basil's Academy, Garrison NY**. Saint Basil's Academy has beautiful grounds offering dormitory style rooms, an indoor basketball court and an Olympic-size indoor swimming pool which will be available for use.

Saint Basil's Academy dormitory space has been reserved for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The arrival of the altar servers will be on Friday evening, February 24. The retreat will conclude on Sunday, February 26, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Last year we had over 70 participants attending the retreat where they enjoyed fellowship, education, and spiritual enrichment under the guidance of His Grace Bishop MICHAEL. We look forward to another successful retreat where we learn the basics and fundamentals of serving the Divine Services. A special feature at this year's retreat will be learning how to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Those servers who are interested in attending the retreat should contact their parish priest for information and registration forms. Clergy of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey should report the number of altar servers that will attend the retreat to Priest Jason Vansuch (as soon as possible). Adult supervision will also be sought to accompany the servers.

There are no accommodations for women to participate in this event.



**{For Press Release on Diocesan Website}**

The Annual Altar Server Retreat will take place at St. Basil Academy in Garrison, New York. Saint Basil's Academy has beautiful grounds offering dormitory style rooms, an indoor basketball court and an Olympic-size indoor swimming pool which will be available for use. It will be a three day retreat. There will be **no** charge to participate in the retreat. Friday, February 24 will be the arrival time from 4 o'clock on in the evening when participants will register. All participants should bring their own toiletries. Bedding will be supplied by the Academy. The participants should bring their Sticherions as they will be participants in the liturgical services. Also, proper clothes should be brought for the liturgical services. Shorts or sweats and bathing suits should be brought for the basketball and swimming events. Warm clothes should be brought as they will be traveling from venue to venue. Only one chaperone will be needed for every six/seven participants. If there are adult participants/servers they will serve as chaperones. The altar servers who are staying only one night may be picked up on Saturday, February 25 after Vespers. If they are staying until Sunday, February 26 they can be picked up after The Divine Liturgy and the morning meal. His Grace Bishop Michael will remain until the last participant is picked up. We will inform you if additional chaperones are needed after we receive all of the participant information.

A permission slip **must** be filled out for each participant. Permission Slips and Waiver Forms are attached along with a schedule of the services and events for the retreat.

Please forward the permission slips along with the waiver forms to Priest Jason Vansuch ASAP.

