



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY – RETREAT DETAILS

Annual Girls' Retreat ~ November 9-11th, 2018 ~ Saint Basil Academy, Garrison, NY

Dear Reverend Clergy and Diocesan 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 at **Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY** from **November 9-11, 2018**. The retreat is open to **Young Women in Grades 7-12** not only in our Diocese, but also to those in different jurisdictions and nearby dioceses. Please spread the word beyond your parishes!

The theme of this year's retreat is "**Finding Your True North: Where Does Christ Fit into Your Life?**" We are especially grateful to have as our guest speaker **Natalie Kapeluck Nixon, Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Ukrainian Orthodox Camping Programs**, who will address **contemporary moral issues** facing all teenagers today, specifically young women. Natalie has a wonderful presence in the world of Orthodox Youth Ministry, sitting on the Board of Directors of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), and also serving as a youth consultant for the Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration and to the Assembly of Bishops Committee for Youth. She also teaches a Youth Ministry Certification Course for St. Sophia's Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary.

A note concerning chaperones: We welcome female parents and 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 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 OCTOBER 26th**: <http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>.

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
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ANNUAL GIRLS' RETREAT

The Annual Girls' Retreat is scheduled for **November 9-11, 2018** at **Saint Basil Academy** located at [79 St Basil's Rd, Garrison, NY 10524](https://www.saintbasilacademy.com/). There is **no charge** to participate in this three-day event. Participants may start arriving for check-in on Friday, November 9, beginning at 6:30 PM.

"Finding Your True North: Where Does Christ Fit into Your Life?" is this year's retreat theme. We have designed a weekend program with guest speaker **Natalie Kapeluck Nixon, the Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Ukrainian Orthodox Camping Programs**. During her time with us, Natalie will address **contemporary moral issues** facing all teenagers today, specifically young women, ranging from friendships, anxiety, social media, dating, and whatever other topics arise over the course of the weekend. Come prepared to have **great discussions** in a safe environment **with others like you** who face similar challenges every day, and to learn how Christ's teachings and our Orthodox faith can help you navigate through difficult situations.

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. Towels and bedding will be supplied by the Academy, but feel free to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow if you are more comfortable with that. 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. It can be **extremely cold!**

Chaperones: Since we are looking to have as many of our youth present for this event as possible, we will also need chaperones. Only 1 chaperone is needed for every 6 participants. We welcome female parents and 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, November 10, after Vespers in the Main Building **and must be signed out by their parent or guardian**. If they are staying until Sunday, November 11, 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. 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 **OCTOBER 26th**. **Saint Basil's Academy can no longer accommodate late registrants.**

Please fill out and submit your registration forms online:

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

Please contact Danielle Geeza with any questions!

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ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Natalie Kapeluck Nixon is the Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. She sits on the board of directors of Orthodox Christian Fellowship for which she has held several executive committee positions as well as Student Advisory Board Advisor, Interim Program Director, and College Conference Advisor. She also serves as a youth consultant for the Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration and to the Assembly of Bishops Committee for Youth. Natalie serves as Chairman of the Jurisdictional Youth Director Committee and teaches a Youth Ministry Certification Course for St. Sophia's Seminary. Natalie also serves as the director for the Ukrainian Orthodox Camping Programs and is the co-founder of the Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me camping program. Recently she has begun the St. Nicholas Camping Program for Youth with Disabilities. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Ethan and their very exuberant son, Theodore.



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Friday, November 9, 2018

Check-in starts at 6:30 PM.....Pizza will be served at 7pm!

****Volunteers & Chaperones, are asked to arrive between 5:00-6PM, if possible****

8:00 PM.....Welcome & Icebreakers
9:00 PM.....Q&A with Archbishop Michael
9:00 PM.....Chaperone Meeting with Youth Director
10:00 PM.....Evening Prayers (Chapel)
11:00 PM.....Lights Out

Saturday, November 10, 2018

8:30 AM.....Akathist "Glory to God for All Things" served by Archbishop Michael (Chapel)
9:30 AM.....Breakfast
10:15 AM.....Session 1 with Natalie Kapeluck Nixon
11:30 AM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be assigned to locations)
1:00 PM.....Lunch
2:00 PM.....Session 2 with Natalie Kapeluck Nixon
3:30 PM.....FREE TIME! (Chaperones will be assigned to locations)
4:30 PM.....Confession available (Chapel)
5:00 PM.....Vespers (Chapel)
6:00 PM.....Dinner

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

7:00 PM.....Evening Session/Activities (Main Building)
9:00 PM.....Chaperone Meeting with Youth Director
11:00 PM.....Lights Out

Sunday, November 11, 2018

9:30 AM.....Divine Liturgy
11:15 AM.....Brunch. Remaining participants should be picked up after Brunch.

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