



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

Department of Youth Ministry – Retreat Details

Annual Teen Retreat ~ March 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 Lenten Teen Retreat!** The 3-day event will be held at a new venue this year, **Camp Shiloh** located in **Hewitt, NJ**, from **March 22-24, 2019**. The retreat is open to **Teens 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!

The theme of this year's retreat is "**Living a Christian Life.**" I am very excited to have as our guest speaker **Steven Christoforou, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**. He has an energetic presence in the world of Orthodox Youth Ministry, and is well-known for hosting the popular [Be the Bee](#) and [Live the Word](#) video podcasts, as well as co-hosting [Pop Culture Coffee Hour](#) and [We Are Orthodoxy](#). He is passionate about sharing the Gospel in a clear and accessible way, and helping people see Christ at work in their lives.

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 MARCH 8th**. I need to provide an initial headcount two weeks in advance.

A note concerning chaperones: We will need several parents/youth leaders to accompany the participants and act as chaperones. However, due to increased attendance at recent retreats and space limitations, I ask that parishes limit the number of adult chaperones accompanying your group.

1. **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 (Diocesan Policy: 1 chaperone for every 6 participants; Example: 60 kids total, only 10 chaperones).**
2. **Chaperones** will be selected on a **first come, first served** basis.
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.

Given that we are working with a new venue, **please be respectful of the guidelines set forth above, particularly the registration deadline of March 8th**. Again, the Diocese must provide an initial headcount by that date—**please do not delay. After that date I cannot guarantee participation.**

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
OCA Diocese of New York and New Jersey
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Email: nynjocayouth@gmail.com



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RETREAT DETAILS

The Annual Lenten Teen Retreat is scheduled for **March 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, March 22nd at 5:30pm. The weekend will kick-off around 7pm.

“**Living a Christian Life**” is this year’s retreat theme. We are honored to have **Steven Christoforou, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**. He has an energetic presence in the world of Orthodox Youth Ministry, and is well-known for hosting the popular [Be the Bee](#) and [Live the Word](#) video podcasts, as well as co-hosting [Pop Culture Coffee Hour](#) and [We Are Orthodoxy](#). He is passionate about sharing the Gospel in a clear and accessible way, and helping people see Christ at work in their lives.

Venue: [Camp Shiloh](#) is a Christian Retreat Center in Northern New Jersey offering excellent accommodations, plenty of activities (zip line, low ropes course, rock wall climbing), 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 dorm and/or cabin style buildings. 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. If altar servers wish to serve, please bring your **purple robe**. **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. Since we are looking to have as many of our youth present for this event as possible, the number of chaperones for this retreat will be limited to the Diocesan Policy of having 1 chaperone for every 6 participants (ex: 60 participants, only 10 chaperones). Clergy in attendance will serve as chaperones. Chaperones will be selected on a first come, first served basis. 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 **MARCH 8th**.

An initial headcount must be given to Camp Shiloh on March 8th – after that date, we cannot guarantee your participation

Please submit your registration forms online here: <http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>

Contact Danielle Geeza with any questions!

Phone: (914) 222-1317

Email: nynjocayouth@gmail.com



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ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Steven Christoforou is the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. A graduate of Yale University, Fordham University School of Law, and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Steve is passionate about sharing the Gospel in a clear and accessible way and helping people see Christ at work in their lives. He has an energetic presence in the world of Orthodox Youth Ministry, and many of you are likely familiar with his [podcasts](#): Be the Bee, Live the Word, Pop Culture Coffee Hour, and We Are Orthodoxy.



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 22, 2019

Check-in starts at 5:30 PM.....Dinner will be served at 7pm!

****Volunteers & Chaperones, please arrive between 4-6PM, if possible****

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

9:00 PM.....Session 1 with Steve Christoforou

10:00 PM.....Evening Prayers

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

10:30 PM.....FREE TIME! (Dorm/Cabins, game room and gym)

12:00 AM.....Lights Out

Saturday, March 23, 2019

8:00 AM.....Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy (Fireside)

9:45 AM.....Breakfast (Dining Hall)

10:45 AM.....Session 2 with Steve Christoforou (Fireside)

12:00 PM.....Lunch (Dining Hall)

1-5:00 PM.....Adventure Course (Gym/Outside) ****SNEAKERS REQUIRED****

5:15 PM.....Confession available (Fireside)

5:45 PM.....Vespers

6:30 PM.....Dinner (Dining Hall)

7:30 PM.....Final Session with Steve Christoforou (Fireside)

8:30 PM.....FREE TIME!

9:30 PM.....Q&A with Archbishop Michael (Fireside)

9:30 PM.....Chaperone Meeting with Youth Director and Chaplain

10:30 PM.....FREE TIME! (Dorm/Cabins, game room and gym)

12:00 AM.....Lights Out

Sunday, March 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><u>The Basics</u></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 (NOTE: sneakers are required for Adventure Course) <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><u>Other Suggestions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bible, 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><u>Toiletries</u></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><u>PLEASE DO NOT BRING</u></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.