

2023 ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

Organized by the Diocesan Youth Department

November 2, 2023

Unto the most Honorable Clergy, Church Executive Boards, and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

With the blessing of His Grace, our Bishop Longin of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica Midwestern America, Diocesan Youth Department is delighted to announce the upcoming annual Winter Youth Retreat "**Thy Will be Done: Living Out my Faith in Today's Society,**" to be held at the **New Gračanica Monastery** from **Tuesday, December 26th through Saturday, December 30th, 2023**. We welcome all Orthodox high school students interested in attending a spiritually-edifying retreat centered on faith, fellowship, and fun.

Each retreat participant must complete a registration form and pay a registration fee of **\$240.00**. **Please note with all our preparations the fee is not refundable. If you are unable to come, we will gladly accept it as a donation --- thank you.** We encourage those who may be experiencing financial difficulties to reach out to their parish to request assistance. Those who are unable to secure assistance from their parish, please contact our Youth Director, Dn. Jovan Anicic, at (312)-659-4723.

This year we also invite any Orthodox college students who would be interested in serving Christ by applying to be one of our "Serving Leaders," —someone who can assist the Youth Director and staff by offering their time and talents for the duration of the retreat and serve as a primary example of Christian leadership. The registration fee for Serving Leaders is reduced by 50% - the **\$120** will be used to cover expenses.

We ask that all retreat participants (retreaters and serving leaders) bring \$20 for a donation to the retreat. No additional spending money will be necessary unless the participant would like to make purchases in the monastery bookstore and gift shop. We are so looking forward to this year's retreat, and we thank you for your continued support of our Diocese's Youth Department. May God be glorified through our efforts!

Please feel free to contact the youth department, if you have any questions about the retreat: youthdeptmidwestsoc@gmail.com. The Director of the Youth Department can be reached by telephone at: (312)-659-4723 and/or by email at: jovananicic78@gmail.com. We are very excited to have this opportunity to facilitate this event. We hope you will support the future of the church by sending youth from your parish to the retreat.

In Christ's Service,

Protodeacon Jovan Anicic, PhD

Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica Midwestern America

Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Department

Retreaters - Registration Process

1. Fill out the Retreat - 2023 Winter Youth Retreat [Participant Application](#)
2. Receive an email from our Youth Department confirming you have been accepted into the retreat.
3. Complete an online consent form (parents and retreaters to complete electronically)
4. Pay for the retreat via Paypal

Serving Leaders - Registration Process

1. Fill out the [Serving Leader 2023 Application](#)
2. Receive an email from the Youth Department requesting you to complete the consent forms and your availability for a virtual interview.
3. After the scheduled interview, if we decide to move forward with your application we will contact the references you listed on your application form.
4. Once the process is complete you will be sent an email with the dates, times, and link for the Serving Leader virtual training.