

# BETREAT

A Pan-Orthodox Retreat **ENCOUNTER. EMBODY. ENGAGE.**

2023-2024 Participant Packet



**ORTHODOX YOUTH  
AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

# About OYM

## Our Vision

To pass on a faith where every young person can encounter Christ, embody His Church, and engage the world in His Name.

## Our Mission

OYM equips and supports clergy, parents, and ministry workers to meet 5 needs of young people:

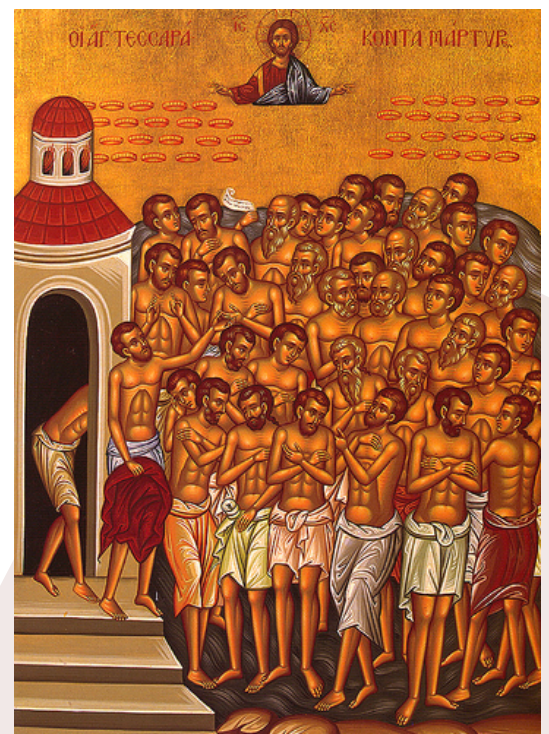
- To know Jesus Christ.
- To know oneself in relation to Christ.
- To belong to the full community of the Church.
- To be empowered with a faith that makes a difference.
- To be entrusted with the witness of the Church.

OYM does this by:

- Providing resources, trainings, retreats, and events.
- Offering support to parishes, jurisdictions, and regions.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of this work on an ongoing basis.

## Our Patron Saints- 40 Martyrs of Sebaste

The 40 Martyrs were taken into custody together for their faith in Christ. They were thrown into a freezing lake together and encouraged each other to endure until the end. They "stayed in the lake" together for Christ. In their story we see the idea of the communal holding of each other. That is how OYM approaches its work. We all stay in the lake together with clergy, parents, and ministry workers as we work to pass on our faith.



# Meet the Retreat Team

Christian Gonzalez is our Director of Ministry. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who holds multiple degrees from Wheaton College, Azusa Pacific University, and Luther Seminary. Well known for his work developing training materials like “Effective Christian Ministry” and podcasts like “We Are Orthodoxy” and “Pop Culture Coffee Hour,” he is passionate about upbuilding of the Church as the Family of God: a household that forms young people into the likeness of Christ.



**Christian Gonzalez**  
Director of Ministry



**Jack Corbin**  
Retreat Leader

Jack Corbin is currently in his third year of studies at St Vladimir's Seminary working towards his Masters of Divinity. Jack is from Orange County, California where he loves to hang out with family and friends and play golf. He is currently one of the Directors at Camp St. Nicholas Antiochian Camp in CA. Jack has also worked with the YES program and has helped run many youth retreats across the country.

**Sandra Glisic**  
Director of Operations

Sandra is our Director of Operations. She holds multiple degrees and certificates from Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, Tufts University, and the Lilly School of Philanthropy. She is passionate about building Christ-centered teams that bring organizational best practices to complex ministry problems.



# Session Breakdown (Adult Track)

## Session 1 - Being the Household of God

In this session we will explore the notion of the Household of God as the center of life and how our lifelong experience of faith has shaped the kind of people we are becoming. We will reflect on influencing factors in faith and what they might mean for us today.

## Session 2 - Finding Christ in a Rule of Life

What are our lives ultimately oriented towards? Do we really even know? In this session, we will learn to reorient our lives around Christ by seeking to encounter Him in the day-to-day rhythms of life and what it might look like to intentionally lean toward communion with Christ.

## Session 3 - Finding a Community of Love

What does it look like for us to be the Household of God within the Church? What does it mean for us to be brothers and sisters with one another? With children? In this session, we will learn how to support one another in love through the highs and lows of the Christian life.

## Session 4 - Becoming Love in a World of Pain

We are surrounded by a world that is suffering, and yet how often do we stick to ourselves? What would it look like to become persons of love? In this session we will explore how we can turn from our inward gaze to becoming people who engage the world in the Name of Christ.





# Session Breakdown (Youth Track- Grades 6-12)

## Session 1 - Seeking to Encounter Christ

In the Church, we pray and confess that Christ is everywhere present and filling all things, but do we actually experience this? If not, then why not? Drawing on the life and sayings of the saints, we spend the session learning to look for the Christ who fills all things.

## Session 2 - Embodying Christ's Church as the Family of God

Having looked for Christ in all things, we will begin to look for how we can meet Christ in one another as brothers and sisters in Him. In this session we will learn what it means to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).

## Session 3 - Engaging the World as Ambassadors of Christ's Love

As people who share common hope in Christ, the highest call is to live a faith that expresses itself through love (Gal. 5:6). In this session, we will begin to consider the world around us and explore the ways we can engage the world in Christ's Name.

## Session 4 - Being the Best Neighbors

Having spent the day in spiritual practices of prayer for one another and lifting up the world, we will do a simple service project that seeks to meet the needs of those around us. Rather than simply saying, "Be warmed and be filled" (James 2:16), we will work to share the Good News of the Kingdom through the sharing of material goods.



# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY:

6:00pm Church Service  
7:00pm Appetizers served/Registration begins  
Icebreaker/Why is OYM here today?

## SATURDAY:

9:00am Prayer/Breakfast  
10:00am Session 1  
11:15am Break  
11:30am Session 2  
1:00pm Lunch  
2:00pm Session 3  
3:30pm Break  
3:30pm Session 4/Service Project for Youth  
4:30pm Wrap Up  
5:00pm Vespers  
7:00pm Young Adult Event

## SUNDAY:

8:30am Matins & Liturgy  
11:30am Coffee Hour



**ORTHODOX YOUTH**  
AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

\*Scheduling may be subject to change\*



encounter. **embody.** engage.



@TheOYMofficial

[www.theOYM.org](http://www.theOYM.org)