

The Orthodox Youth Mission Team

Reunion Gala

*Celebrating ten mission trips
across twelve years of service*

Saturday, November 26, 2022
6:00 in the evening
St. John the Baptist Church
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Thank You

November 26, 2022

Dear Faithful and Friends of the Orthodox Youth Mission Team,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

It is with humble hearts and minds that we gather this evening at St. John's to give thanks to God for all that He has granted us through this youth ministry. Born out of a desire to give high school students concrete expressions of their Christian Faith, the Orthodox Youth Mission Team has blossomed into a youth ministry that has involved hundreds of youths and adult leaders across this country.

This night we gather to give thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the many people whom He has placed before us to help nurture, guide and grow this work. This is not the work of one or even a few people. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit working in and through the lives of so many people who have placed God first and not themselves. Those who have learned to see and experience the joy of what St. Paul says in his letter to the Galatians:

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

For truly the ministry of OYMT is not to put oneself or one's own comfort first, but the other in whom we must see and recognize Jesus Christ. I want to thank all of you, from Liz Yoho who held our hands from the get-go, to Beth Rzyk and Susan Sulich who meet every week to keep us focused and on track, and to Lexi Klimaszewski who put together this entire Gala. Lexi sees and knows how important it is for the Youth (and each and every one of us) to see Faith in actions; to bring the liturgy outside the four walls of the church alive and active into our everyday lives.

Thank you to Fr. David Cochran and the entire parish of St. John's here in Bridgeport for allowing us to use their parish hall and for their dedicated support of OYMT over these years. May God continue to bless you and all that you do.

Assuring you of my love and prayers,


Fr. Luke

The Stats

Ten mission trips since 2010

Nine trips with the Appalachia Service Project:

Summers County, West Virginia - 2011 (7 participants)
Johnson City, Tennessee - 2012 (16 participants)
Wayne County, West Virginia - 2013 (20 participants)
Mingo County, West Virginia - 2014 (28 participants)
Martin County, Kentucky - 2015 (37 participants)
Wyoming County, West Virginia - 2016 (34 participants)
Johnson County, Tennessee - 2018 (60 participants)
Knox County, Kentucky - 2019 (100 participants)
Clay County, Tennessee - 2022 (49 participants)

Filled an entire ASP volunteer center in 2018, 2019, and 2022
Participated in ASP's 50th Summer of Service in 2018

The first youths invited to be part of an OCMC trip:

Napaskiak, Alaska - 2017 (25 participants)

Over 200 total participants from 4 jurisdictions
106 participants from 6 local parishes
8 satellite teams mentored across the country

64% trip return rate for local members

TWELVE Four-Trip Members
ONE Five-Trip Member: Melissa Tartaglio
THREE Six-Trip Members: Maddy Sulich, Lexi Klimaszewski, Nick Fazekas
TWO Seven-Trip Members: Nick Symochko, Luke Faubel
ONE Eight-Trip Member: Lynne Goetz
ONE Nine-Trip Member: Chris Nolan
THREE Ten-Trip Members: Fr. Luke Mihaly, Susan Sulich, Beth Rzyk

1,074 individual donors
54 godparent donors (\$500+)

Over 60 families helped with home repairs, a new church foundation laid, youth camp provided for over 40 children and countless meaningful connections made

None of this would be possible without your help!

Thank you to our Godparent Donors . . .

Sound Engineering Solutions, Inc. Lorraine Fednya Dori and Michael Kuziak Dianne & Napoleon Tsilfoglou Jay Woods Mary Ann Vojtek Rose Marie Smisko Dan Jowdy Rick & Barbara Reynolds Pat Soper and Jim Zeleniak St. John's R Club Joel and Victoria Statkevics Greg Horan Lidia and Robert Ciamarra The Adzima Family Maria and Walter Fecica Orestes and Katarina Mihaly Dinah and Arnie Bellis Dr. and Mrs. John Elefteriades George and Vasilia Kaouris Joseph Brown St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church GOYA Eleanor and Paul DeBassio Laurie and Mike Jerome Bethany Mihaly Joan Pavlik John Woods	Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Nicholas Washenko, may his memory be eternal Nancy and Roger Goedtel Gail Kuziak Metropolitan Bishop Gregory of Nyssa Suzanne Molineaux Kristine Lownsbury Eleanor Adzima Suad and Rodger Behrend Jon and Chrissanth Gross William Booth David Skirkanich, in memory of Henry Jankowski Ann and Basil Kocur BIC Corporation John M. and Karen Galpin Elaine Trainor Rosemary Delaney Jill Zamparo Elena Gordon Nick and Samantha Carter eVero Corporation St. John's Church Drs. Edward and Laura Mularz Suzanne and Chris Nolan Bill Soltis, on behalf of St. John's R Club V. Rev. Fr. Michael Macura, may his memory be eternal Donna and Ralph Loomis
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Special Thanks to . . .

The parishioners of St. John's Bridgeport for the use of their beautiful parish hall.
Vazzy's and DJ Bill Lopez for their patience and flexibility.

Lexi Klimaszewski and Jamison Dunne for all their time, effort, and hard work
organizing the OYMT Reunion Gala.

Laura Klimaszewski for her time assembling the donor appreciation wall.

Christopher Mihaly for designing our favor and special gifts.

Maddy Sulich for creating the favors.

Norma Audette for donating her time and talent to make our very special T-Shirt
Quilt raffle prize commemorating all our trips.

Paul Sulich and Laura Klimaszewski for providing cocktail hour appetizers.

Natalie Klimaszewski and Noah Vargoshe for staffing the event.

Everyone who donated items for our Silent Auction, including our friends in West
Virginia, Bennie and Diana Boggs.

And all those who contributed in any way to making this event a success!

We would like to recognize three special people:

Pastor Liz Yoho for generously sharing her time and allowing us to shadow her
and learn how to lead a youth mission team.

Pres. Renee Ritsi for her support, mentorship, and enthusiastic encouragement.

Fr. Luke Mihaly for his leadership, spiritual guidance, and tireless love for our
team and the people we serve.

Congratulations Orthodox Youth Mission Team!



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We are so proud of you Lexi! Love, Mom, Dad & Natalie

Bethany Mihaly
Independent Beauty Consultant

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**We are proud of the
Orthodox Youth Mission Team
and wish you continued success!**

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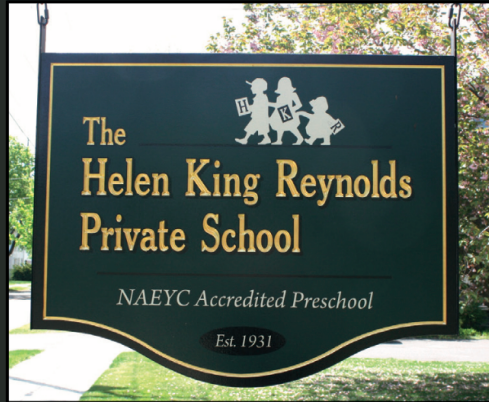
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