

Храм св. великомученика Георгия
Приход Западно–Американской Епархии РПЦЗ

St. George Russian Orthodox Church
A parish of the Western American Diocese of the ROCOR

Services: 1544 W 7800 S, West Jordan, UT | Correspondence: 5556 Hollow Springs Dr, Murray, UT 84123
Phone: (801) 281-5560 | Web: www.stgeorgeslc.org | Email: stgeoslc@yahoo.com

Dear Parish Rectors --

Christ is in our midst!

With the blessing of our ruling hierarch, Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America, I would like to extend an invitation to the wives of any priests or deacons in your parish to attend the Western American Diocese's first retreat for clergy wives. This event will take place at the church of St. George in Salt Lake City, UT from August 5 until August 7. Please inform the clergy of your parish and their wives about this event, which we hope will be enough of a success to repeat again in the future.

The retreat will feature three round-table discussions on issues facing priests' wives in a parish setting. There will also be ample time for socializing and discussion. A concert of classical music will be performed, and there will be opportunities for excursions to see some of the natural beauty of the Salt Lake Valley. Local diaconissa Seraphima Havens, an alumna of Columbine High School, will speak about the role of the school shootings there in her spiritual development. The retreat will culminate in the celebration of Liturgy on the day of the dormition of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. A tentative schedule is attached.

All meals and transportation to and from the airport will be provided. Housing will be arranged with our parishioners, or attendees are free to make their own arrangements. If enough attendees prefer hotel accommodations, we will arrange with a local hotel to get a discounted rate.

While many matushki may wish to make this a true "retreat" from everyday life, some may wish to travel to the retreat with their families. We welcome husbands and children to come along. I and our parishioners will see to care of the children during the retreat, and can offer suggestions to families for activities around town while matushka is at the retreat. Salt Lake is flanked east and west with gorgeous mountains, and only a few hours drive from some of the nation's most beautiful natural parks (Arches park in Moab, Zion in southern Utah). Additionally, many remnants of the 2002 Olympics are open for tourism. Those who are able to get away for more than a few days may consider the retreat as a launching ground for a longer family vacation.

We look forward to seeing everyone in August, and to the success of this event! Please encourage your clergy's wives to return the enclosed form and attend this retreat! Additional copies of the registration form may be printed from our web site, www.stgeorgeslc.org.

In Christ,

priest Michael van Opstall, rector
St. George Russian Orthodox Mission

Tentative schedule:

Tuesday, August 5:

2:00: Arrival, opening moleben
2:15: Welcome from parish rector
2:30: Free time
3:00: Round table discussion: Children in church with a husband in the altar
4:00: Tea, snacks
5:00: Vespers, Matins, 1st hour (Sts. Boris & Gleb)
7:00: Dinner

Wednesday, August 6:

8:00: Liturgy (Sts. Boris and Gleb)
9:30: Breakfast, fellowship
10:30: Round table discussion: The matushka and the sisterhood
12:00: Lunch
1:00: Concert
2:30: Round table discussion: The matushka and parishioners
4:00: Diaconissa Seraphima Havens: The School Shootings in Columbine
5:00: Vespers, Matins, 1st hour (Dormition of St. Anna)
7:00: Dinner

Thursday August 7:

8:00: Liturgy (Dormition of St. Anna)
9:30: Festive brunch
11:00: Excursions into Salt Lake City and surrounding areas

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Send to: St. George Russian Orthodox Church, c/o Rev. Michael van Opstall, 5556 Hollow Springs Dr., Murray, UT 84123

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

My husband, priest deacon _____ will also come.

My _____ (number) children will also come.

I will make my own housing arrangements.

I would like to sing in the Slavonic English choir.

The following excursions sound interesting to me (check two): Visit downtown, including the Greek and Antiochian churches in Salt Lake. Visit the world's largest open pit copper mine. Visit one of the ski resorts. Visit one of the sites of the 2002 Winter Olympics. (the last three options are all at altitudes higher than 5000 feet)