

Why Participate?

- To enjoy time with each other during this special weekend designed to give healthy married couples assistance in becoming “one”...
- For an opportunity to attend to your marriage away from the distractions and “busy-ness” of daily life...
- To learn more about your faith and the Church’s teaching of marriage as a path to your salvation...
- To draw closer to Christ and each other through the retreat workshops and liturgical services...
- To meet and share with other couples...
- To be refreshed by the beautiful, peaceful surroundings that await you at the Village...



Registration Forms Available at
www.AntiochianVillage.org

Early Bird Registration Rate
post marked by February 1, 2012

Registration Deadline
February 13, 2012

Questions? Concerns? Contact Us!
724-238-3677 x 425 • barli@antiochianvillage.org



140 Church Camp Trail
Bolivar, PA 15923
Telephone: 724-238-3677
Fax: 724-238-2102

Enjoy a Weekend
Retreat with your
spouse at



February 17-20, 2012

*Orthodox Marriage:
Forgiveness, Enrichment,
& a Path to Holiness*



*“For the state of wedlock does not
estrangle us from God, but rather ties us
more closely to Him, for it brings forth a
greater impetus to turn to Him.”*

St. Gregory the Theologian

Sacrament of Marriage

Retreat Speakers

Tentative Schedule

"To be a fellow worker with God in the Sacrament of marriage is a Holy calling, everything one does in marriage is the work of salvation." In this multidisciplinary marital enrichment retreat we will be looking at marriages from multiple perspectives in order to better understand and enact this great mystery. We will be employing both clinical, pastoral, theological and sacramental approaches to enrich the relationships and marriages of our participants. Over the weekend through clinical assessment instruments, small group discussions and inspiring lectures set in the Liturgical life of the Orthodox Church we will attempt to renew our high calling that is marriage.



Rev. Fr. John Mefrige has both theological and psychological training, holding both a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div) from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA and a Master of Science degree in Marital and Family Therapy (MS MFT) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. Presently he is also pursuing his doctorate. Fr. John has practiced as a professional Marriage and Family Therapist. Presently, he is the founding priest of St. Ephraim the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church in San Antonio, TX. Fr. John is endeavoring to establish a uniquely Orthodox expression of the psychological sciences and is particularly committed to teaching healthy conflict resolution skills to both parishes and families. He is the founder of The Coalition of Orthodox Peacemakers. Fr. John is happily married to his wife Janet and they have four children.



David C. Ford, Ph.D is an Associate Professor of Church History at St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., his Master of Divinity degree from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Ok., and his Ph.D. from Drew University in Madison, N.J. He has published two books, Marriage as a Path to Holiness: Lives of Married Saints (co-authored with his wife Dr. Mary Ford) and Women and Men in the Early Church: The Full Views of Saint John Chrysostom.



Mary Ford Ph. D is an Associate Professor of New Testament, at St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. She has written in the field of Scriptural studies, In addition, with her husband Dr. David Ford she co-authored the book, Marriage as a Path to Holiness: Lives of Married Saints. In addition to all their work at the Seminary and their scholarly publications, they have also developed and published a lengthy history curriculum for Orthodox parochial and home schools, which is being used by more than 200 families throughout the country.



David L. Weaver-Zercher PhD is professor of American religious history at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. in religion from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997. David's publications also include Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy (Jossey-Bass, 2007) and The Amish Way: Patient Faith in a Perilous World (Jossey-Bass, 2010), both written with Donald B. Kraybill and Steven M. Nolt. His writing has appeared in numerous journals, including Church History, Mennonite Quarterly Review, and North Carolina Historical Review. He is married to Valerie Weaver-Zercher and is the father of three sons.

The weekend schedule is designed for growth and refreshment! Couples will enjoy planned activities as well as time on their own.



Friday, February 17

- 7:00pm Check-in
- 7:30pm Session 1
- 9:00pm Wine & Cheese Social

Saturday, February 18

- 9:00am Breakfast
- 10:00am Session 2
- 12noon Lunch
- 1:30pm Session 3
- 3:00pm Free Time
- 5:00pm Vespers
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Movie & Discussion "Amish Grace"

Sunday, February 19

- 9:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy
- 11:45am Brunch
- 1:00pm Session 4
- 2:30pm Wrap Up & Evaluation
- 3:30pm Free Time
- 6:00pm Candlelight Dinner / Dance

Monday, February 20

- 9:00am Breakfast
- 11:00am Check-out