

Family Outreach Sunday

A Day of Outreach & Fellowship
for Orthodox Christians, Families and Friends

On Sunday, November ___ the Parish Council, the Outreach Committee, and the ladies of Philoptochos, and our entire parish will host FAMILY OUTREACH SUNDAY.

As Saint John Christostom said in 396 AD, *“Each of us has an apostolic mission to arouse the fervor of the Spirit in our brothers and sisters.”*

Each of us knows a family member or friend who has fallen away from active participation in the life of the Church. We encourage all active members to reach out to inactive family members and Orthodox friends to join us for a special Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship in our Church Hall.

Please watch for further information.

For information & resources visit www.outreach.goarch.org

Did you know that Family members have the greatest influence in persuading an unchurched person to come to church?

(Source: *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched* by Thom S. Ranier)

Who will you bring to
church on
Family Outreach Sunday

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The Importance of Bringing a Guest to

Family Outreach Sunday

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER _____

Q: Why is it so important to bring a guest to Family Outreach Sunday?

A: It is a vital part of our Church's mission of salvation.

Research has revealed the following facts:

- Far more than any other person, the family member was influential in persuading an unchurched person to come to church.
- Wives were most influential in reaching the unchurched.
- A decision to return to a church is usually made within a few minutes after arriving at the church.
- FRIENDLINESS CAN HAVE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES!

~ SOURCE: SURPRISING INSIGHTS FROM THE UNCHURCHED, BY THOM S. RAINER ~



FAMILY OUTREACH SUNDAY

INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

September 9, 2005

Garrison, NY – The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Outreach & Evangelism is pleased to announce the First Annual Family Outreach Sunday. This program encourages active parishioners to invite inactive family members and Orthodox Christian friends for a special day of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Many are aware of Orthodox friends and relatives that have fallen away from active involvement in the Church. Jesus Christ calls each one of us to engage in active outreach to these relatives and friends. Archbishop Demetrios of America refers to this calling as “...a particularly integral aspect of our Orthodox Christian identity that is worth our cultivating, cherishing and sharing.”

Family Outreach Sunday has been developed in cooperation with the Ladies Philoptochos Society and the Center for Family Care at Saint Basil Academy, and is modeled on successful Outreach Sundays carried out in the parishes of Birmingham, Alabama and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All parishes are encouraged to choose a Family Outreach Sunday in November that best fits their parish calendar.

National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas included an outline of this program in her fall letter to the local chapters in which she encouraged all to support and participate in Family Outreach Sunday efforts in their parishes. Mrs. Skeadas describes this initiative as “a noteworthy program that the National Philoptochos Society wholeheartedly endorses and supports.”

Father Constantine Sitaras, Director of the Center for Family Care at Saint Basil Academy has praised Family Outreach Sunday as “...an excellent complement to our efforts to affirm the importance of the family as a blessed gift from God and to address the specific needs of families as they try to live in a very challenging culture and world.” Father Sitaras sees Family Outreach Sunday as a “win-win” proposition for all involved and hopes to see the program become an annual parish event.

Information and Family Outreach Sunday posters have been sent to all parish clergy throughout the Archdiocese. Program materials are available on the website of the Department of Outreach & Evangelism at www.Outreach.goarch.org.

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