

# Family Supplement

Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry  
Plan

## January 2018

Part of the 2017-2018 Ministry Year

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Office of Camping Ministries

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# Welcome to the Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan!

August 3, 2017

Dear Parent and Ministry Leader,

Raising children to know Christ isn't easy. For too long, parents and family members have been disconnected from the ministry of the parish, left to fend for themselves as they attempt to raise a new generation of Orthodox Christians.

Wouldn't it be better if we could somehow bring together all youth ministry, whether it happens in the parish or the home?

But to do that, you need support. You need a set of reliable, high-quality materials to help you lead Christ-centered ministry for your home.

That's why we created the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan**.

We've created nine months of materials carefully designed for well-rounded, effective, and Kingdom-oriented ministry. Organized week-by-week and month-by-month, the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** gives parishes a comprehensive set of tools that will help Church workers lead ministry designed, not simply for the head, but for the heart.

And, best of all, the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** includes this Family Supplement designed to help parents and families raise a new generation of faithful Orthodox Christians.

After all, Christians aren't simply informed: they are formed. They are transformed in the light of Christ into the people, the saints, God has called us to be.

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That's why the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** offers a diverse set of experiences that don't simply pass on messages but rather facilitate encounters: both with other Christians and with our Lord Himself.

And it's all laid out for you, from the first week of September 2017 through the last week of May 2018.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [y2am@goarch.org](mailto:y2am@goarch.org). Please, let us know what you think: we're committed to creating a new **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** every year and constantly refining and improving the materials we offer you.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou  
Director, Y<sup>2</sup>AM

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## Special Acknowledgment

August 3, 2017

The **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** takes the very best ministry insights and sets them forth in a simple, concrete, easy-to-use resource that can offer ministry workers help today. It reflects the great work of our Team, a fantastic group of people who have done (and continue to do) amazing things for the Church.

I'm blessed to work with them; their fierce dedication and humble love of the Lord encourage me daily.

Yet I'd be remiss if I don't offer special thanks to Cassandra Garibaldi, Y<sup>2</sup>AM's Resources & Training Coordinator, for her unique contribution.

Cassandra started working on this vital project almost a year ago. It's been an interesting and challenging process as she's both helped shape Y<sup>2</sup>AM's ministry vision and crystallized it into this concrete, user-friendly **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan**. Despite all the twists and turns and challenges along the way, Cassandra stayed focused on serving Christ and doing her best to help create ways to reveal Him in our lives.

Her leadership and effort (not to mention the amazing final product) are an incredible testament to Y<sup>2</sup>AM's ministry vision and the incredible impact that committed, Christ-centered young adults can have on the Church.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Archdiocese's Center for Family Care. Special thanks goes to Elissa Bjeletich for her help in preparing this Family Supplement.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou  
Director, Y<sup>2</sup>AM

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## Additional Acknowledgment

August 3, 2017

The **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** reflects the successful work and cooperation of dedicated, Christ-centered Church workers from across the country. It is a testament to the way the fruits of our labors are multiplied when we work together, both *for* and *with* each other.

Thanks in particular to our dedicated brothers and sisters in Christ:

Bryce Buffenbarger  
Father Joseph Collins  
Elaine Cremeens  
Alex Demos  
Spyridoula Fotinis  
Father Andreas Houpos  
Father Sampson Kasapakis  
Summer Kinard  
Father Dean Kokanos  
Maria Koursaris  
Alyssa Kyritsis  
Alex Magdalinos  
Father Nicholas Mueller  
David Munkres  
John Shelton  
Emma Solak  
Melissa Tsongranis  
Natalie Wians  
Sam Williams

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou  
Director, Y<sup>2</sup>AM

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## How to Use the Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan

This Family Supplement is a resource provided to better inform families about how their youth have been growing closer to Christ in parish-based ministry, and to give them the tools to complement that progress at home.

After all the home, the “little Church,” is the most important ministry environment for youth.

If we expect our children to undertake this important journey to Christ and His Kingdom, then we need to make sure they are supported every step of the way. Ministry doesn't not merely happen at the parish once a week: it can happen in loving and Christ-centered homes everywhere, every day.

If you are a parish youth worker, please make sure that families know about this Family Supplement. You can email this Family Supplement to families at the beginning of each month or given at the end of sessions. They may even be helpful to use for family sessions during a family night at the parish.

If you are a parent or family member, we hope this Family Supplement will serve you well as you raise your children to know Christ.

The material in this Family Supplement, as well as the Bible verses, are directly from the youth session part of the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan**.

The activities in the Family Supplement are designed to augment the learning from the sessions, helping families start and have meaningful conversations and formative experiences at home.

Thanks for letting the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** help you lead incredible, Christ-centered ministry in your homes.

And thank you for letting us join you on this journey.

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# Family Notes

## JOY - Learning Sessions - Fruit of the Spirit: KINDNESS

We began this month's conversation on kindness by thinking about various scenarios we might encounter in life (kid sitting alone at lunch table, etc.) and the small things a person might quietly do to show kindness to another. We have been promised that whatever kindness costs us will be repaid to us by God. When we give freely, without expecting anything in return, out of kindness to others, we are storing up treasure in heaven.

We challenged everyone to think of ways to show kindness, especially in situations where the other person does not seem to deserve kindness.

You can continue the conversation at home by asking how future weeks' activities relate to kindness, and by doing some of the following:

### For Discussion:

- Mother Teresa said, "Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile." Have you seen someone who radiates kindness?
- What if you radiated kindness? How would your life change at home? At school? Around town?



### Pray together.

Add this prayer to your regular evening family prayer routine for January:

Lord, help us to be kind and merciful. Let everyone we encounter come away feeling uplifted. Allow us to be the living expression of Your kindness through kindness in our eyes, our smile, and our presence. Amen.

Discuss what it would mean to be "the living expression of God's kindness". What can we do? Can we ask God to help us accomplish this?

### POST A MEMORY VERSE

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Memorize and discuss. How are we repaid for our kindnesses?

### KINDNESS PROJECT

Each family member should consciously choose to commit one "random act of kindness" per day, all month long. At the end of the day, check in to hear each other's stories, at the dinner table or at family prayers. What impact do you see from these acts – on others and on you?

### TARGETED KINDNESS

Instead of "random acts of kindness," be intentional: think about your neighbors and people you see regularly around town. Who needs some kindness? Pick someone. What sort of kindness might make a difference to them? Find ways to be kind to them quietly and regularly.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*

–Galatians 5:22-23

# Family Notes

## GOYA - Learning Sessions - Fruit of the Spirit: KINDNESS

We began this month's conversation on kindness by thinking about "random acts of kindness" and of the small things a person might quietly do to show kindness to another. We have been promised that whatever kindness costs us will be repaid to us by God. When we give freely, without expecting anything in return, out of kindness to others, we are storing up treasure in heaven.

We challenged the GOYANS to think of ways to show kindness, especially in situations where the other person does not seem to deserve or return kindness.

You can continue the conversation at home by asking how future weeks' activities relate to kindness, and by doing some of the following:

### For Discussion:

- Mother Teresa said, "Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile." Have you seen someone who radiates kindness?
- What if you radiated kindness? How would your life change at home? At school? Around town?



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