

Family Supplement

Y²AM Ministry
Plan

October 2017

Part of the 2017-2018 Ministry Year

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

Welcome to the Y²AM 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 **Y²AM 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 **Y²AM 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 **Y²AM 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.

That's why the **Y²AM 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. Please, let us know what you think: we're committed to creating a new **Y²AM Ministry Plan** every year and constantly refining and improving the materials we offer you.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou
Director, Y²AM

Special Acknowledgment

August 3, 2017

The **Y²AM 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, Y²AM'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 Y²AM's ministry vision and crystallized it into this concrete, user-friendly **Y²AM 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 Y²AM'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, Y²AM

How to Use the Y²AM 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 **Y²AM 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 **Y²AM Ministry Plan** help you lead incredible, Christ-centered ministry in your homes.

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

Family Notes

JOY - Learning Sessions - Fruit of the Spirit: JOY

Abiding Joy

We began this month's conversation on joy by thinking about the difference between happiness and joy. Happiness depends on worldly circumstances, but joy is deeper and can be experienced even during very difficult times. Gratitude feeds joy; being grateful to God for those good things He has sent us helps us cultivate joy in our hearts. Joy comes from abiding in love.

We challenged everyone to think of one way they will try to cultivate gratitude and joy—even when it's difficult.

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

For Discussion:

- What can we do to increase our own gratitude every day? How can we cultivate joy and abide with God? What steps could we take in our daily routine to increase the joy we experience and radiate to the world?



Pray together.

Add this prayer to your family's regular prayer routine to help focus on joy this month.

Lord, let Your will be done within us and help us remember to: "Be joyful at all times, pray without ceasing, and give thanks for all things." Amen.

For inspiration, listen to the story of Simeon and his very simple prayers: Be The Bee Episode 81, Pray Simply, Pray Always: [youtube.com/watch?v=xPpumAzqcm0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPpumAzqcm0)

POST A MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

(John 16:22)

Post this verse on your refrigerator or wall, and work to memorize it throughout the month.

GRATITUDE LIST

Gather for prayers every evening as a family, and begin by stating a few things for which each person is grateful. Start a family gratitude list, which you'll read aloud at prayers sometimes. (Kids may have received a gratitude journal to keep track too!)

ABRAHAM & SARAH

Read Genesis 18:1-15. Abraham and Sarah were almost 100 years old when they were visited by the Holy Trinity and promised a new baby son. Think about their joy at receiving these holy visitors and being promised the wonderful (and unexpected) gift of a child!

"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: JOY

Abiding Joy

We began this month's conversation on joy by thinking about the difference between happiness and joy. Happiness depends on worldly circumstances, but joy is deeper and can be experienced even during very difficult times. Gratitude feeds joy; being grateful to God for those good things He has sent us helps us cultivate joy in our hearts.

We challenged the GOYANS to think of one way they will try to cultivate gratitude and joy—even when it's difficult.

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

For Discussion:

- At the Othros of Pascha, we sing, "behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world." How can it be that we joy comes through the Cross? How can we find joy while we bear our own crosses in life?
- What can we do to increase our own gratitude every day?

POST A MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

(John 16:22)

Post this verse on your refrigerator or wall, and work to memorize it throughout the month.

GRATITUDE LIST

Gather for prayers every evening as a family, and begin by asking each family member to state a few things for which they are grateful. Set out a notebook and ask people to contribute to a family gratitude list, which you can read aloud at prayers.

MOTHER MARIA

Read the life of Mother Maria Skobotslova. "Mother Maria's view was that "the Liturgy must be translated into life. It is why Christ came into the world and why He gave us our Liturgy."" How can we live the liturgy in life? How did she find joy in a concentration camp and in embracing the Cross? incommunion.org/2004/10/14/four-saints/



Watch **BeTheBee Episode #4 (Prayer and Joy)** together and discuss it.

youtube.com/watch?v=SvhJeZLy3q0

Is your family prayer life really about joy, or is it about fulfilling obligations and checking items off a list? Has it even been inspiring enough to keep the family committed?

For inspiration to improve, watch **Be The Bee Episode 81, Pray Simply, Pray Always** youtube.com/watch?v=xPpumAzqcm0

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