WELCOME TO OUR 2021 SUMMER CLERGY RETREAT

Diakonia Retreat Center

Tuesday, June 1 – 3, 2021
His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios prays for our clergy and their families. He seeks to support their ministry. With that in mind, He has planned a special “retreat” from the world to uplift us with loving and supportive practices and guidance as we offer the Sacrament of Holy Confession.

His Eminence also will guide our clergy’s efforts to welcome new Orthodox converts using thoughtful and consistent resources to enable catechumens to be prepared for the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation.
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA SUMMER CLERGY RETREAT
JUNE 1-3, 2021, AT DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER
Day 1 - Tuesday – June 1, 2021

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. – Arrival/Unpack in Rooms/Relaxation/Fellowship

5:00 p.m. – Paraklesis Service (St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. George Kouzelis, Celebrant Priest)

6:00 p.m. – Dinner (Dining Hall)

7:00 p.m. – Opening Prayer & Remarks – His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, followed by Fr. Christodoulos Papadeas’ Overview of the Sacrament of Holy Confession (Dining Hall)

9:00 p.m. – Small Compline Service (Dining Hall)

9:30 p.m. – Wine & Cheese Fellowship Reception (Dining Hall)
Day 2 - Wednesday – June 2, 2021

8:00 a.m. – Orthros Service & Group Photo (St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Demetrios Babilis, Celebrant Priest)

9:00 a.m. – Breakfast (Dining Hall)

9:45 a.m. – Presentation by Fr. Paul Kaplanis (Conference Center) – “Healing the Healer”: ‘Who, O my Savior, can search out the multitude of my sins and the depths of your judgements?’”

10:45 a.m. – Break (15 minutes)

11:00 a.m. – Panel Discussion (Conference Center) – “Clergyman as Confessor and Penitent: Brothers in Christ Sharing Experiences” (Metropolitan Alexios, Bishop Sevastianos, Fr. Christodoulos Papadeas, Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Fr. Vasileios Tsourli & Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Moderator)

12:30 p.m. – Lunch, followed by time for Personal Prayer, Reflection, Confession, & Bookstore Visit

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers (St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Andrew Pavlakos, Celebrant Priest)

6:00 p.m. – Dinner (Dining Hall)

7:00 p.m. – Wrap-up/Final Remarks on Holy Confession by Metropolitan Alexios (Dining Hall)

8:00 p.m. – Clergy Syndesmos Meeting (Dining Hall)

9:30 p.m. – Small Compline Service (Dining Hall)
Day 3 - Thursday – June 3, 2021

7:00 a.m. – Orthros/Divine Liturgy (St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Andreas Houpos, Celebrant Priest)

9:30 a.m. – Breakfast (Dining Hall)

10:00 a.m. – Presentation on Sacrament of Chrismation (Conference Center) – Bishop Sebastianos

11:45 a.m. – Metropolitan Alexios’ & Bishop Sebastianos’ Closing Remarks (Conference Center)

   (His Eminence requests clergy to NOT leave early so He can address them as a group.)

12:00 p.m. – Lunch & Departure (Dining Hall) We pray you have a safe trip home.
Suggestion: You may wish to bring a few snacks if your health requires extra nutrients. Also, a small flashlight/umbrella.

Clergy Chapel Assignments: For the clergy assisting in the Altar for our worship services, please bring vestments. Fr. Christos Mars prepared service books to use. We thank our clergy for your help with chanting and assisting in the Altar. Clergy, bring Anteri for Chapel services and Exorasson for Thursday morning services. We ask you to adhere to driving/parking guidelines found on reverse.

5.25.21
KEEP IN MIND...

Registration Fee is $200

- Parishes are asked to provide clergy with the $200 registration fee (check made payable to “Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Syndesmos”)

- Payments will be collected at Wednesday evening’s “Clergy Syndesmos Meeting”

- If you did not bring payment, special instructions will be given on Wednesday night... no worries.

- If you are serving a small parish, we understand the parish may not be able to pay your registration fee. Privately, see our Chancellor, Fr. George Tsahakis, who will cover your registration fee with a grant from our Metropolis Endowment that seeks to help small parishes ensure their clergy’s attendance.
KEEP IN MIND...

Clergy Retreat Limited to 50 Clergy

• In March and April, our Chancellor invited all active clergy to register

• Each participant has been assigned a single room. We are at capacity.

• Our aim is to follow safety guidelines from CDC and other regulations

• With the CDC permitting those “fully vaccinated” to choose whether they wish to social distance or wear a mask, we will follow the “honor system”. In addition, for those who have had Covid and have been tested for antibodies, you know your status; we do not. Please help ensure our communal safety by following CDC and federal, state, and local guidelines. We are not judging... we are Brothers in Christ seeking fellowship and learning from His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and His Grace Bishop Sevastianos and our Brother Clergy. Act accordingly! Thank you!
KEEP IN MIND...

We are at capacity; registration is closed as of May 27, 2021

- Our Chancellor accommodated all clergy who contacted him by May 27th asking to attend, even though latecomers hadn’t previously registered. Unfortunately, to ensure safety and limit one clergy per room, we cannot add more. If you did not register, please don’t assume you are registered and come unannounced.

- Some of our clergy have not been vaccinated; they worry about traveling. Others had risk factors that warranted them staying home. Likewise personal reasons were considered, so let us not judge those who chose not to join us.

- Our clergy who registered first were provided cabins. All cabins were assigned in the first 20 minutes... yes, our clergy are responsive, and we commend their registering so quickly.

- If your plans change, email chancellor@atlmetropolis.org ASAP.
Click for Room Assignments for Clergy Last Names – A - G
Click for Room Assignments for Clergy Last Names – H - L
Click for Room Assignments for Clergy Last Names – M - P
Click for Room Assignments for Clergy Last Names – S - W
Parking at the Diakonia Retreat Center

The Diakonia Retreat Center’s mission to bring guests closer to the beauty of God’s natural creation means that it is primarily designed for pedestrian traffic. Given this intention, parking is only available in the upper parking lot at the main entrance gate and in the two small lots at the eco cabins.

However, in instances of limited mobility and other special needs, please note the following accommodations for vehicular parking:

- The parking spots next to the dining hall (by the vineyard) are reserved for handicap parking only.

- Additional handicap parking also will be available near the Panagia Chapel, upon request.

Please contact Fr. Constantine Shepherd to receive the parking pass required to utilize the handicap parking spots.
Diakonia Retreat Center Map

Welcome!
Main Entrance

455 Quail Ridge Rd, Salem, SC 29676
(864) 944-6788

Upper-Level Parking for Clergy Retreat Participants
Upon arrival, take your suitcase/bags and walk to your assigned room and leave car here. Be punctual to help us stay on schedule. Use social distancing and wear masks as required.

Eco Cabins
Limited Parking
10
11
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NA
NA
16
17
18
19

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“... those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)
PRAYERS FOR SAFE TRAVELS...
LOOKING FORWARD TO JOINING YOU FOR OUR FIRST CLERGY GATHERING IN MORE THAN A YEAR!

FGT, 5.27.21