



# June 22-24, 2012

HOSTED BY ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN ORTHODOX CHURCH, DETROIT, MI

A HANDS-ON RETREAT TO EQUIP  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

## Glory to Jesus Christ!

### The Orthodox Christian mission in the world

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (I Thes. 5:16-18)

**Thanks** be to our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for sending His Only-begotten Son into the world. To us who had fallen away, He did raise us up again, “and not cease to do all things until He brought us up to heaven and endowed us with the kingdom which is to come” (Anaphora Prayer)



**Thanks** be to our God, for sending to us His life-creating Spirit upon us who are fallen and broken, in a world suffering under the bondage of sin and death. Through His Spirit we are raised up from death to life, to a new life fashioned for us in His blessed kingdom.

**Thanks** be to our loving Lord, Who opens for us the way of salvation of our souls and bodies, and the attainment of the kingdom of God, which we know in our life in His Holy Church. He builds His churches in this world with “living stones,” Christians through whom Christ continues to extend His mercy into the world, for the life of the world and for its salvation. As observed in the Apostolic era regarding the mission of Christians in this world: “*what the soul is in a body, thus the Christians are in the world*” (Ad Diognetum, 6.1)



### Our Orthodox Christian mission field “...and who is my neighbor?”

For years, many of our youth have traveled to orphanages in Mexico or Central America, and many places throughout the world, and we as the greater Orthodox community have donated funds to the International Orthodox Christian Charities as a tangible witness of our faith through the works of mercy.

And closer to home, it’s no secret that the recent economic downturn has devastated urban centers such as the Detroit, Michigan, area. Two of the largest employers were reorganized in bankruptcy filings. Thousands have been laid off, devastating the economy of metro Detroit. These circumstances bring with them dire conditions of the body and spirit as well.

Visit us online at: <http://www.straphaeldetroit.org/urbanmission2012.html>

## An Orthodox Christian urban mission setting

In contrast to many of our suburban Orthodox parish neighbors, **St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church** is located in an urban setting. Nestled in a retreat center on ten verdant acres of land, the small parish is situated on the western edge of Detroit. Our activities with the YMCA charter school next door and the local neighborhood association have introduced us to the plight of an entire neighborhood, the 1000 homes surrounding the parish known as the Castle Rouge Association.



As an Orthodox Christian community, we perceive our “parish” to extend throughout the entire neighborhood, in that when one of us falls, we all fall. We have become increasingly aware that many in our immediate neighborhood, longtime homeowners, are on the “precipice” just a few paychecks away from homelessness.

The parish is part of a greater community. Next door to our retreat center is the Detroit Leadership Academy, which serves many of the neighborhood families. The school

develops leadership skills and character-building tools otherwise inaccessible to these children, offering life-changing opportunity to many. This includes a program to help educate young parents in basic home-economic skills. The children are also learning the art of urban gardening. The St. Raphael parish is actively partnering with these programs, “adopting” needy families, providing ongoing food and clothing through our center, even hosting a neighborhood Thanksgiving meal. We offer the valuable resources of discreet legal and financial guidance for those who request it as well.



We are striving to be good neighbors. Although few of our parishioners live in the immediate neighborhood, we take an active role in the Castle Rouge Neighborhood Association. We are blessed to be a part of a group truly making a difference, steadily swimming upstream, reversing the currents of decline right here in Detroit! By the grace of God, we are all growing steadily together in synergy with our neighbors.





# June 22-24, 2012

HOSTED BY ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN ORTHODOX CHURCH, DETROIT, MI

A HANDS-ON RETREAT TO EQUIP  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

## Join us for a hands-on Urban Mission retreat!

**For high school, college, and adult Orthodox Christians and catechumens.**

The faithful will stay in the historic St. Andrew Center and pray and worship together, share meals, and fellowship. We will receive practical instruction in the Church's mission and ministries for those in need, and work together on some projects in the neighborhood.



Many of our youth and adults hunger to experience missionary work firsthand, but only a small portion is able to go abroad. While there is important work to be done here as well as overseas, our suburban parishes find little direct exposure to our urban and rural poor and to the homeless. Located in Detroit, the annual St. Raphael of Brooklyn URBAN MISSION week provides an opportunity to not only learn about missions in an Orthodox Christian context but to participate in outreach here in our own back yard.

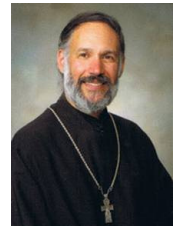
**Registration: \$50.00 per person**

Fees include lodging and meals (one night). Each registered missionary will receive a resource packet, which includes necessary forms and documents, and materials to help promote the mission in your parish. Any additional donations missionaries raise (beyond individual registration and mission cost) will go directly toward the mission's inner-city projects for the week.

**Please contact your host Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. Paul Albert, for further information and registration materials.** We will also provide additional resources on our parish website to help you inform your parish about this ongoing opportunity for ministry.

[fr.paul@bex.net](mailto:fr.paul@bex.net)

419-944-3995



Visit us online at: <http://www.straphaeldetroit.org/urbanmission2012.html>



# June 22-24, 2012

HOSTED BY ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN ORTHODOX CHURCH, DETROIT, MI

A HANDS-ON RETREAT TO EQUIP  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

## Schedule

### Friday

June 22, 2012

3:00 – 5:00 PM	Arrival
5:00 PM	Vespers/ Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God
6:00 PM	Dinner & fellowship
7:00 PM	Presentations: (open free to the public) <b>Paul Abernathy</b> (FOCUS Urban Mission in Pittsburgh, PA) <b>Kathryn Saclaridies</b> (Violence Prevention in Little Village, Chicago, awarded Chicago's "Most Outstanding Community Strategy of the Year")
9:00-10:00 PM	Q & A with presenters
10:00-11:00 PM	Gathering room for fellowship
11:00 PM	Compline

### Saturday

June 23, 2012

6:00 AM	Matins, Hours
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM-4:00 PM	Work/ministry projects, with on-site break for lunch
4:00 PM	Rest, quiet time
5:00 PM	Great Vespers/Nativity of St. John the Forerunner
6:00 PM	Dinner & wrap-up
8:00 PM	Bonfire & fellowship

### Sunday

June 24, 2012

8:30 AM	Matins, Hours
10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy with the parish family of St. Raphael of Brooklyn
12 Noon	Lunch/fellowship
1:30 PM	Departure

Visit us online at: <http://www.straphaeldetroit.org/urbanmission2012.html>