

THE ARCHDIOCESAN PRESBYTERS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE



NATIONAL CLERGY RETREAT 2025

"Stand blamelessly before Your Altar... Proclaim the gospel, Minister sacredly the Word, Offer Your spiritual gifts and sacrifices, Renew your people."

Prayer of ordination to the Priesthood



OCTOBER 6 - 9 2025

NAPLES GRANDE BEACH RESORT

NAPLES, FLORIDA

Registration & Information: <https://www.presbyters.org/>

Early Registration: \$495 (before September 1)

Regular Registration: \$625

Hotel: \$259 + tax

www.presbyters.org



Upon our ordination to the priesthood the Consecrated Amnos is placed into the palm of our hands and we are instructed to preserve the Parakatathi, the Sacred Trust. Together with the long held APC vision, 'Brothers who love and serve one another,' this year's retreat theme encourages us to support one another, care for one another, love one another, as we minister to the faithful Honoring the Sacred Trust of our Lord.

The Retreat Team, along with your APC Representatives have invested themselves into making this Retreat spiritually uplifting, intellectually challenging and open to opportunities to share in fellowship and activities that will renew and strengthen bonds of friendship. The Retreat goal: to support and grow our vision as servants of Christ allowing us to leave the retreat renewed and refreshed to minister to the faithful entrusted in our care.

This is all accomplished through opportunities to strengthen old relationships and develop new ones as well through dynamic and personal encounters, interactive engagement sessions with brother clergy, refreshing adventures, and personal and corporate prayer time and worship. By participating in the Retreat and taking a break from your daily routine and oftentimes hectic schedule, we invite you to join your brother clergy from across the Archdiocese to share in our unique brotherly bond in a peaceful and beautiful place.

Please prayerfully consider joining us as we return to the Naples Grande Beach Resort in Naples, Florida for the APC National Clergy Retreat as 'brothers who love and serve one another.'

- Your APC Retreat Team

OUR SPEAKER

FR. JOHN BEHR

Fr. John Behr is the Regius Professor of Humanity at the University of Aberdeen, since the summer of 2020, having taught at St. Vladimir's Seminary since 1995, serving there as Dean from 2007-17. He is also a part-time Professor at Radboud University, Nijmegen, Holland.



His early work was on asceticism and anthropology, focusing on St. Irenaeus of Lyons and Clement of Alexandria (OUP 2000). He is writing a series of books on "The Formation of Christian Theology", two volumes of which have already appeared: vol. 1, *The Way to Nicaea* (SVS Press 2001) and vol. 2 *The Nicene Faith* (SVS Press 2003). On the basis of these two volumes, he published a synthetic work, *The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death* (SVS 2006). This was followed by an edition and translation of the fragments of Diodore

of Tarsus and Theodore of Mopsuestia, setting them in their historical and theological context (OUP 2011).

More recently Fr. John published a more poetic and meditative work entitled *Becoming Human: Theological Anthropology in Word and Image* (SVS Press, 2013) and a full study of St. Irenaeus:

St. Irenaeus of Lyons: Identifying Christianity (OUP, 2013). Additionally, he has completed a new critical edition and translation of Origen's *On First Principles*, together with an extensive introduction, for OUP (2017), and *John the Theologian and His Paschal Gospel: A Prologue to Theology* (OUP 2019). He has just completed a new edition and translation of *On the Human Image of God (aka On the Making of Man)* by Gregory of Nyssa. His next major project is a new edition and translation of the works of Irenaeus.

REGISTRATION, HOTEL & PRICING

Registration for the Retreat is available online only. To access Registration and Retreat information visit: presbyters.org/retreat

There you will access all the information you need to know about the Retreat, travel recommendations, Adventure options, retreat theme details, speaker information, and more.

REGISTRATION

Early bird Registration for the Retreat is only \$495 per person through September 1, 2025. All Early bird registrations are entered into the "You Pick the Prize" drawing to win one of three amazing gifts. Starting September 2, the rate increases to \$625 per person. Don't wait, visit the website for important drawing rules, retreat pricing and refund policies.

HOTEL

Thanks to our Retreat Team we have negotiated an amazing room rate at the Naples Grande Beach Resort located in Naples, Florida. Make your reservation by September 6, 2025 to guarantee a great rate of \$259, single or double occupancy. Share a room and the rate is only \$130 per person! Included in the room rate are the \$10 daily resort charge and room tax. Complimentary amenities for the APC include, bottled water, free Wi-Fi in public spaces and guest rooms, 24/7 use of fitness facility, bicycle rentals, 1 hour beach kayak or paddleboard rental, beach towels and luxury chaise lounges, range balls and use of driving range at Naples Grande Golf Club.

To make your hotel reservation online visit: presbyters.org/retreat and click the hotel reservation link. The discounted nightly retreat rate will be available for check-in as early as October 4 and check-out as late as October 11 (based on hotel availability) for those who would like to enjoy additional time before or after the retreat, but the rate is only for individuals who have registered for the retreat.

PLEASE NOTE

The discounted hotel rate is available only to clergy who register and participate in the retreat events. Attendees who register, but do not participate in the retreat will be charged the full room rates.

Also, this is a clergy-only event. Wives and family members are welcome the three days before and/or the three days after the retreat, but are kindly asked not to be present on-site during the retreat itself to allow clergy to fully participate and focus on the retreat events, activities, and fellowship. All Clergy wives are encouraged to attend the wives-only NSP Biennial Presbyteres Retreat, October 15-18 in San Antonio, TX. See NSP.goarch.org

SCHEDULE

(Times subject to change)

Monday, October 6

2:00 pm Check-in & Registration
6:00 pm Opening Vespers
6:30 pm Archbishop's Welcome Reception
7:30 pm Opening Dinner & Archbishop's Welcome
9:30 pm Hospitality Suite Open

Tuesday, October 7

7:30 am Divine Liturgy
9:00 am Brunch
10:30 am Cohort Introduction
11:45 pm Encounter # 1 -Fr. John Behr
12:45 pm Personal Time
1:00 pm Trainer-led Fitness Session (optional)
2:15 pm Encounter #2 -Fr. John Behr
3:15 pm Cohort Discussions
4:15 pm Personal time
6:00 pm Walk/Shuttle to Beach & Reception
7:00 pm Dinner on Beach
9:30 pm Hospitality Suite Open

Wednesday, October 8

6:30 am Trainer led Fitness Sessions (optional)
8:00 am Breakfast Buffet
9:00 am Depart for Off-site Adventures
3:00 pm Personal Time
5:00 pm Depart Hotel
5:30 pm Closing Vespers
6:30 pm Closing Dinner
9:30 pm Hospitality Suite Open

Thursday, October 9

8:30 am Breakfast Buffet
10:30 am Retreat Ends

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America, Most Honorable Exarch of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is the eighth Archbishop of America elected since the establishment of the Greek

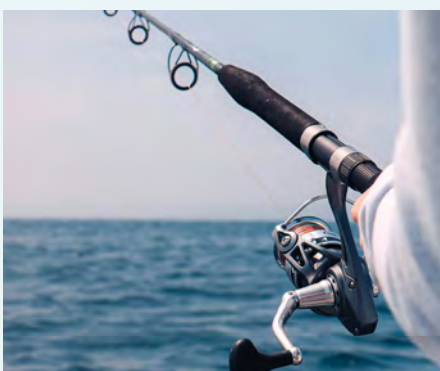
Orthodox Archdiocese in 1922. In March 2011, he was elected Metropolitan of Bursa, and in August of the same year was appointed Abbot of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Halki. He has served as the Orthodox Secretary of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran World Federation and as a member of the Patriarchal delegations to the General Assemblies of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. He was the Secretary of the Pan-Orthodox Synods in Sofia (1998), Istanbul (2005), Geneva (2006), and Istanbul (2008). He has been an active member of the World Council of Churches serving on its Central Committee and also serving on its Faith and Order Commission since 1996. On May 11, 2019, he was elected Archbishop of America by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and was enthroned at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City on June 22 of the same year.



ADVENTURES

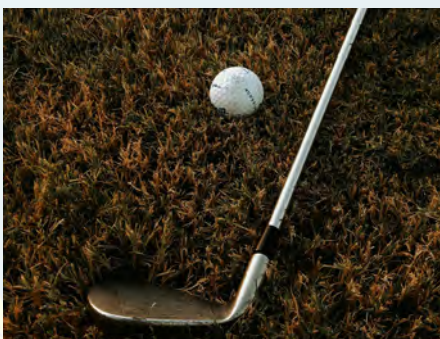
Fishing

Nothing like a great day out on the waters casting your line from a charter fishing boat. The crew will fit you with the appropriate line and make sure you have all the bait you need to catch 'the big one' in the coastal waters of Naples, Florida. Participation is limited to the first 17, so register early.



Golf Outing

Plan a foursome or be paired with other golfers and hit'em long and straight on one of Naples' beautiful golf courses. Bring your clubs or rent them at the course. In either case, come and enjoy a great day on a tremendous golf course with friends of all playing abilities. (Additional Fee)



Conservatory Walking Tour

Join us on a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, one hour long, guided tour of the local stunning mangrove ecosystems at the Naples Grande Beach

Resort. Explore and learn about the local ecosystem and history at a comfortable pace following the boardwalk. Bring walking shoes, hat and sunscreen.



Guided Bike Ride

Enjoy a leisurely bike ride guided by a local cyclist through the backroads and bike trails in the greater Naples area. The casual ride is geared for riders of all abilities.



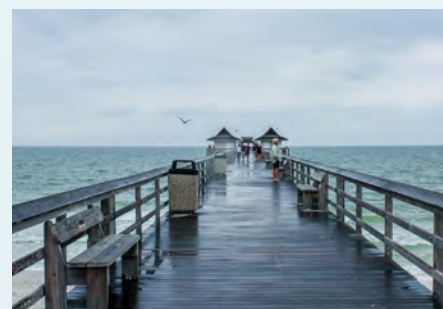
Scenic Harley Ride in Southern Florida

Take a scenic ride with friends for a few hours and explore Southern Florida aboard your favorite Harley. Requires a motorcycle license and previous experience.



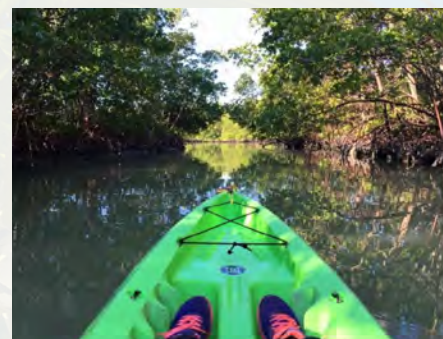
Personal Reflection & Relaxation Time

Enjoy the day at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. Go for a walk. Spend time at the beach or pool. Use the wellness center on site. Spend time in fellowship. Relax and read a book. Take advantage of time and opportunities that you might not have at home by using the facilities of the Naples Grande Beach Resort.



Eco Friendly Kayak Tour

Experience the beauty and tranquility of nature on our guided kayak tour through the stunning mangrove ecosystems. This tour offers the perfect combination of exploration, education, and excitement. Bring your hat and sunscreen. One-seater and two-seater kayaks available for the two-hour tour. Stand-up paddleboards also available. Each session open to 12 kayakers and 10 paddleboarders.



SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who is responsible for the cost of the Retreat?

Your parish. As cited in the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council Guidelines, “The National Clergy Retreat (NCR) of the Archdiocese of America will be organized by the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council and held biennially on the off year of the Clergy Laity Congress. All expenses for clergy participants are to be covered by their individual Parish, as per the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the remunerative standards for clergy established by the Clergy Compensation Plan that is issued annually.” Exceptions to this directive must be approved by the local Metropolitan.

Further, the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations (Article 17 (Clergy), Section 8), state: “The Archdiocesan Council and the Archdiocesan Benefits Committee will establish remunerative standards for the Clergy. These standards, for the following year, shall be sent to each Parish annually, by September 30,” and in the Clergy Compensation Guidelines referred to therein, it is noted: “The Parish must provide... Expenses for attending District/Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assemblies and Retreats, the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, Clergy Continuing Education Programs, and the Archdiocese Presbyters Council Retreat.”

What is the cost of the Retreat?

It depends on your choice in a number of factors: Registration, Hotel and Travel

Registration: \$495-\$625

Register by September 1, 2025 pay only \$495 - a savings of \$130 over the regular rate of \$625.

Hotel: \$259 + tax

Rooms are an affordable \$259/night single or double occupancy, so save money by sharing a room with a friend and cut your cost for three nights to \$388.50 + tax or \$777 + tax for a single.

Travel: \$200-\$475

Airfares to Ft. Meyers (RSW) are ranging around \$200-\$475. Book early! Add an Uber or taxi to get to the hotel at around \$40.

That puts the total cost range between \$1200 and \$1700 depending on your choices of registration, rooming, transportation and location.

What is the registration cancellation policy?

The APC understands that clergy schedules are subject to change due to issues beyond our control and has established the following refund policy. It allows a partial refund for cancellations after September 1, 2025.

By September 1, 2025

Cancellations requested by September 1, 2025 will receive a refund of the registration fee paid less a \$100 cancellation fee.

After September 1, 2025

Cancellations requested after September 1, 2025 will not receive a refund due to guarantees and expenses incurred by the retreat as a result of the registration.

Important hotel cancellation note: Registrants who cancel are responsible for cancelling their hotel reservations. Failure to do so may result in hotel cancellation charges.

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (CONT.)

What is included in the registration fee?

The APC wants to make this as all-inclusive and worry-free as possible for our hard-working brothers, and great efforts have been made to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses, so the registration fee includes:

- All scheduled events
- All scheduled meals*
- All event transportation
- All Adventures except golf club rentals
- Hospitality Suite

*Notes: Tuesday and Wednesday lunches are not scheduled group meals and are on your own. Golf Adventure does not include club rentals.

Is financial assistance available?

The overall cost of the retreat is greatly lowered for all clergy through a generous grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund. This makes the event more affordable for all. Additionally, limited financial assistance is available for clergy with demonstrated need through the Leadership grant and through APC and Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos resources. Clergy should contact their local Syndesmos representative for information. A list of representatives can be found [here](#).

Important note: All requests for financial assistance must be received by the Early Bird registration discount date of September 1, 2023.

Is the Retreat for couples or clergy only?

The National Clergy Retreat is, by definition and as indicated in the registration information, a clergy only event, just as the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres is a women's retreat only. Our schedule, meals and other events are designed with the full participation of the clergy registrants in mind. Because attendance at any session, meal, adventure or other retreat function is limited to paid clergy participants. Please understand that wives or other guests do not have the opportunity to participate.

The APC does, however, place a great emphasis on healthy clergy couple relationships, and since the Naples Grande Beach Resort is a beautiful location at a great price, clergy may want to enjoy some time there with their presbyteres before or after the retreat. So, wives and families are welcome to be present for the three days BEFORE the retreat or the three days AFTER, but are kindly asked to NOT be present on-site DURING the retreat itself.

We encourage all our Presbyteres to attend the NSP Retreat October 15-18 in San Antonio, TX. See NSP. goarch.org.

Is attendance at Retreat events required?

The affordable registration and hotel rates are made possible as incentives to participate in the entire retreat, and all attendees are expected to receive the full benefit of the retreat by participating in all events. IMPORTANT NOTE: The discounted hotel rate is available only to clergy who register and participate in the retreat events. Attendees who register but do not participate in the retreat will be charged full room rates.

REGISTER TODAY AT: [HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERS.ORG/](https://www.presbyters.org/)