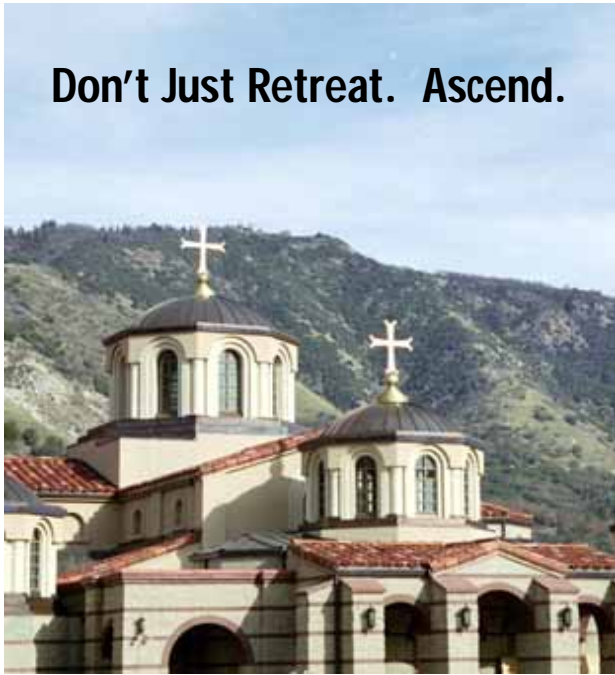


Don't Just Retreat. Ascend.



"Those from St. John's who had never been to the Ranch were immediately taken aback not only by the beauty of the surroundings, but by the serenity that permeates every corner of the grounds. I cannot think of a better and more convenient place for relationship-building in a community both with the members and Jesus Christ, than St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center."

Fr. John Roll,

St. John the Baptist Church, Salinas, California

St. Nicholas Ranch
Conference & Retreat Center

Make the Ascent. Any Time of Year.

Tips for a Successful Retreat:

- **Bring your whole parish.** As a general rule, retreats planned for the entire parish generate more momentum and have a greater long-term impact.
- **Come for a weekend:** with the exception of seniors retreats, weekends are the best time to maximize your participation.
- **Plan your retreat six months in advance** to allow ample time for preparation and promotion.
- **Create and publish a schedule** for your retreat as soon as possible. People like to know what they will be doing, and a well-planned schedule is your best promotional tool.
- **Overpromote:** send a save-the-date message to your parish as soon as you confirm your reservation at the Ranch, publish regular reminders, and intensify promotion as the date approaches.
- **Bring your priest.** If at all possible, the priest should find a substitute and plan to come to the Ranch with his community.
- **Call for help:** the staff at St. Nicholas Ranch will be glad to help you with all aspects of planning and promoting your retreat!

St. Nicholas Ranch
Conference & Retreat Center

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St. Nicholas Ranch
Conference & Retreat Center

**BUILD YOUR
PARISH
RETREAT**



At the Ranch, you will see that a parish that plays together, prays together

St. Nicholas Ranch: Build the Perfect Parish Retreat

Nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains lies St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. A ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, this impressive facility was created to serve the needs of the Orthodox Christian community by hosting camps, retreats, and seminars promoting Orthodox religious education and spiritual formation. It's also a place to get together, relax, and have family fun!

The Ranch is an ideal setting for your parish to hold a retreat. This brochure is intended to help you design your Ranch weekend. It will help you see the kind of things that you can do as a parish.

Here are things to consider when planning your retreat. What part of the year would you like to have your retreat? What are your preferred dates? How many nights would you like to stay?

Parishes have used the Ranch in a variety of ways: family camps, topical retreats, parish planning meetings, young adult retreats, children's retreats, senior citizen camps, men's/women's retreats, father-son/mother-daughter getaways, festival planning meetings... and much more!

What are the needs of your parish?



DURING YOUR RETREAT YOU WILL HAVE:

A GREAT PLACE TO STAY

AT THE RANCH WE HAVE NEWLY RENOVATED LODGE ROOMS WHERE YOUR PARISHIONERS CAN STAY IN RESORT-STYLE COMFORT. OUR DORMITORY ROOMS ARE ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND SINGLES EVENTS.

FUN AND GAMES

ARCHERY ◊ BARBECUES ◊ HAYRIDES ◊ LUAU ◊ GREEK NIGHT ◊ ARTS & CRAFTS ◊ CAMPFIRE ◊ TALENT SHOW ◊ SKIT NIGHT ◊ APPLE PICKING ◊ FISHING ◊ SWIMMING ◊ BASKETBALL ◊ VOLLEYBALL ◊ SOCCER ◊ KIDS GAMES ◊ NATURE WALKS WITH BIOLOGIST DAVE MCFADDEN ◊ AN EVENING WITH JOHN MUIR ◊ KAFENEIO NIGHT ◊ DISCUSSIONS ◊ STARGAZING ◊ MUSIC WORKSHOP ◊ AND MUCH MORE!

FIELD TRIPS

TO: SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK ◊ KINGS CANYON (SUMMER ONLY) ◊ THE GIANT FOREST ◊ GRANTS GROVE ◊ CRYSTAL CAVES ◊ LODGE POLE ◊ THE KINGS RIVER ◊ WOLVERTON SNOW PLAY AREA ◊ COLUMBINE PICNIC GROUNDS ◊ CAT HAVEN ◊ PINE FLAT RESERVOIR ◊ HUME LAKE ◊ SQUAW VALLEY HERB GARDENS

SERVICE PROJECTS

BARN RESTORATION ◊ HELP THE NUNS ◊ RESTORE THE RANCH'S NATURE TRAILS ◊ USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

DIVINE LITURGY ◊ VESPERS ◊ ORTHROS ◊ PARAKLESIS ◊ SERVICES IN THE BARN ◊ PRAYERS AT THE CROSS ◊ CONFESSIONS ◊ Q&A WITH A PRIEST ◊ NIGHT WITH GOD ◊ VISIT THE MONASTERY ◊ TOUR THE KATHOLIKON

GREAT DISCUSSIONS

FOCUS ON THE FAITH. FOCUS ON THE BIBLE. HOLD A CONFERENCE ON THE FAMILY. THE IDEAS ARE ENDLESS! THE RANCH IS A GREAT PLACE FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. WE HAVE TWO SPACIOUS CONFERENCE ROOMS AND FOUR COZY BREAK-OUT ROOMS. YOU CAN HAVE TRADITIONAL THEATRE-STYLE SEATING, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, OR FIRESIDE CHATS.

AND GREAT FOOD!

AT THE RANCH WE CAN COOK GREEK FOOD LIKE YOUR YIA-YIA AND BARBECUE LIKE THE WILD WEST. YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR MENU, OR OUR CHEFS WILL MAKE THE MENU FOR YOU... IT'S YOUR CHOICE, NO ONE LEAVES THE RANCH HUNGRY.

