![the Strategic plan - logo](Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

# Release Announcement

Effective June 8, 2015

## Young Adult Programs



**Strategic Area:** Youth / Young Adults

**Goal:** Increase participation in a larger number of effective young adult ministry programs.

**Coordinator**: Johanna Duterte, Youth Director, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

**Captains**: Jacob Saylor, Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, CA, saylorjt@gmail.com and Esther Vavoulis, St. Anthony, Pasadena, CA

### "Orthodox Forum"

**Program Description:** The *Orthodox Forum*, is a casual, conversational ministry for college students and young adults, which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion on far-reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. Set in a relaxed, comfortable environment, the intent of the program is to deepen our understanding of our ancient Orthodox tradition and its application to our modern world. Discussions cover a broad range of topics from contemporary issues facing young adults today to Liturgical tradition and the writings of the Desert Fathers. Guided by a seminary graduate, or Priest, It is our hope to grow in love , and deepen our respect for one another, by engaging in genuine exchanges of ideas, dialogue, perspectives and fellowship.

**Current Status:** Originally launched at Holy Trinity Church in San Francisco, CA in the fall of 2011, the program has continued to grow over its 4 year existence and is now being offered at St. Anthony's (Pasadena, CA), St. John the Baptist (Anaheim, CA), St. Nicholas (Northridge, CA), and St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral (Alhambra, CA). This model has also inspired the outlines and ethos of recent Metropolis Young Adult regional retreats.

**Recommended Parish Action:** Should your parish be interested in learning more about this program, please contact Holy Trinity's Youth Director, Jacob Saylor, to discuss the Program's approach, process and implementation.

**Anticipated Parish Impact:** Overall impact to the Parish would be low; but, will have a significant impact on the targeted audience of young adults and college students.