

**St. Michael's Orthodox Church
8th Annual Retreat
"The Road to Simplicity:
Our Way to Paradise"**

*Featuring Guest Speaker: Abbess Gabriella of Holy
Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, Michigan*



Thurs., June 16 — Sat. June 18, 2022

At Monte Sano State Park (Campground Pavilion)

5105 Nolen Ave., Huntsville, AL

For more info: www.stmichaelshsv.org or call 256-881-2449

St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

4319 Spartacus Dr., Huntsville, AL 35758



Reverend Mother Gabriella Abbess of the Dormition Orthodox Monastery was Born in Romania. Mother Gabriella entered the monastery of Varatec, Romania in 1974 under the name of Sister Viorica and became the spiritual daughter of Mother Benedicta Braga. In 1978, she accompanied Mother Benedicta to the United States to the monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. In 1984, at the age of 29, she took the monastic vows and became Mother Gabriella. Three years later, in 1987, together with Mother Benedicta, they came to Rives Junction, a small farming community in Southern Michigan to found the Orthodox monastery of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Years of hard work followed. Upon Mother Benedicta's retirement in 1992, Mother Gabriella became the new abbess. She has traveled to Orthodox parishes throughout the United States and Canada conducting spiritual retreats. She enjoys the quiet grounds at the monastery and gardening.