

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

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Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Sunday before Theophany. The Epistle is Colossians 2:8-12. The Gospel is from Luke 2:20-21, 40-52. Circumcision of Christ

Holy Trinity is a diverse and welcoming parish of the Carpatho Russian Diocese, under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, is our diocesan ruling hierarch.

Divine Liturgy is offered Sunday at 10 am. As reminder only those Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Everyone is invited downstairs following



Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour and Fellowship.

Come down and meet Fr. Luke and the parishioners.

Our parish offers many opportunities to pray, to study and learn more about

Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church.

If you have any questions about the Orthodox Church, our Faith, or our parish please feel free to contact Fr. Luke. He is more than happy to meet with you and talk.

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, January 1, 10 AM –
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Sunday, January 1, 11:30 AM –
Open House at the Sulich's.
81 Rita Drive, New Fairfield

Monday, January 2, 7 PM –
Spirituality Class

Tuesday, January 3, 8:30 AM –
Hours

Tuesday, January 3, 9:30 AM –
Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 4, 7 PM –
Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, January 5, 7 PM –
Vigil for Theophany Great

Blessing of Water – Strict Fast Day

Friday, January 6, 9 AM –
Divine Liturgy – Theophany
– No Fasting

Friday, January 6, 1 PM – 5 PM –
Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Saturday, January 7, 3:30 PM –
Video Class

Saturday, January 7, 5 PM -
Vespers

Sunday, January 8, 10 AM-
Divine Liturgy – Renewal of
Baptismal Vows

Sunday, January 8, 11:30 AM –
Church School

There is **NO FASTING or KNEELING** between Christmas, December 25 and the Eve of Theophany, January 5.

Readers Schedule

1/1 – Bob Faubel
1/8 – Susan Paltauf
1/15 – Susan Sulich
1/22 – Paul Sulich
1/29 – Harry Fong

Coffee Hour

1/1 – Open House at Sulich's

Help Re-stock Our Kitchen:

Decaf coffee.

Alcoholism and Addiction | Parish Family Day | Church School

The **Akathist Service to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup** has proven to be a great help to all those who know someone or who themselves are struggling with alcoholism and addiction. We at Holy Trinity have quietly started serving the Akathist to the Icon of the Mother of God of the Inexhaustible Cup. If you are interested in attending the service please see Fr. Luke. This service is open to all parishioners. Look here for our next service.

Our next **Family Night** will be sometime this January. Watch here for upcoming details.

Church School meets on Sundays. Elementary school students will meet immediately after Divine Liturgy. Fr. Luke will be talking to the parents of the high school students to work on a schedule to meet outside of Sunday.

Woodpecker Food

Woodpecker Food: Our woodpeckers are running out of food. Donations of suet cakes (regular size) would be greatly appreciated

| Dorothy Day Collection |

Dorothy Day Collection: We will be collecting men and women's socks, hats and gloves for Dorothy Day during Advent. These are items that are always in short supply during the winter months. A box will be placed in the vestibule of the church and we will bring all the items collected the soup kitchen when we serve in January.

Weeping Icon Visit

The Kardiotissa Weeping Icon of Taylor, Pennsylvania will be visiting our parish on Friday, January 27. A service to the Mother of God will be served at 7 PM. No media coverage or video in church please. Fr. Mark Leasure will accompany the icon and give a presentation after the service.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group—Our Prayer Group is now meeting on Tuesday mornings, immediately following services. We are currently reading "Courage to Pray" by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom and George Lefebvre. In this class we are learning about prayer, personal and intercessory, and it is an opportunity to share some of the struggles and encouraging parts of our prayer lives.

| Annual Meeting Announcement

Annual Meeting Announcement—Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29th following liturgy. We have a number of important items to discuss, including moving forward with our new Rectory/Office/Class room project. Your attendance is vital. If you can't be there, arrange to give your proxy vote to another member of the parish.

New Year's Dance

New Year's Dinner Dance—On Saturday, January 14th we will be having a dinner dance at the church hall. There will be a catered dinner and DJ Bill Lopez will lead the dance floor. Tickets are \$35 (BYOB) and each ticket is entered in a door prize raffle. Reserve your seats (or a table) with Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich (ssulich@yahoo.com).

Bring friends and plan to come celebrate the New Year with your parish family. See attached flyer for more details.

Envelopes Available—If you had envelopes last year or you requested them, envelopes for weekly offerings are in the hall labeled by name. If you did not request envelopes but would like a set, see Susan Sulich

Upcoming Events

Dorothy Day — Friday, January 6, 2017 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Choir Christmas Caroling: Sunday, January 8th following coffee hour

New Year's Dance — Saturday, January 14th

Council Meeting—Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Choir Workshop — Sunday, January 22nd 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training Session — Sunday, January 22nd 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Myrrh Streaming Icon Visit — Friday, January 27th

Annual Meeting — Sunday, January 29, 2017

Stewardship Sunday— Sunday, January 29th

House Blessings

Fr. Luke will be scheduling house blessings. Do not be afraid to call Father to schedule a time. Please keep your calendar open and flexible. Please have the following prepared:

- 1) Have a table or family icon corner set up with a white cloth, candle and a bowl for Holy Water.
- 2) Turn off televisions, radios, and stereos
- 3) Take the telephone off the receiver
- 4) Gather the family together
- 5) Do bring any items you want blessed and names of people for Father to remember at liturgy

1) Your home does NOT have to be spotless, but should be free of clutter on the floor, like toys, which may cause Father to trip or fall.

2) A table should be prepared where an icon, a candle, a small bowl, holy water and a list of first names of everyone you want Father to pray for during the service for their health. If you do not have Holy Water, please let Father know and he will bring a bottle of for you to keep.

3) If you have any small items, like crosses or icons, that you want blessed, place them on the table and let Father know.

4) Turn off all radios and TVs. Take the phone off the hook during the short blessing service. Cell phones

should be turned off. Just remember to place the phone back on the hook and turn on your cell phone at the end of the service.

5) Close all doors to rooms you do not want Father to enter -- open all doors and turn the lights on in the home, otherwise.

6) A family member should lead Father around the home during the blessing. Children may do this, girls or boys.

7) If you have a pet, they may also receive a blessing, but please keep them under control to prevent them from jumping on Father or getting under his feet.

8) I look forward to sharing this special blessing with you and your family. Many Years!!

Birthdays

January	
Andres Villa	1
Adam Varney	2
Pablo Gabriel Villa	3
James Kavallines	10
Nicholas Huott	18
Kate Kerpchar	27
Connie Somoskovec	30

Knitting Group: Our knitting group will be meeting certain Sundays, immediately following coffee hour. All ages and experience levels welcome. If you would like to learn to knit, see Suad for a list of supplies to bring and if you have any questions.

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE BLESSING:

For the Children

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
74 Joes Hill Rd
Danbury, CT 06811

“... a place of refuge full of love and joy.”



What does it mean to “grow up”? Does it mean you are getting taller? Or older? Or smarter? Or does it mean you can drive a car now? Or go to college? What does it mean to “grow up”?

Today is January 1st, and it is eight days after Christmas, the day Jesus was born! The Gospel reading tells us that Jesus received His name when He was eight days old. The Gospel also tells us just a little bit about His childhood. It tells us the story of Jesus as a 12 year old boy, when His parents couldn’t find Him anywhere. When they finally did find Him, the boy Jesus was in the Holy Temple, learning from the teachers.

Then, we read, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and in years, and in favor with God and man.” Then, the Bible is funny, because we don’t hear anything more about Jesus’ life until He is all grown up, at age 30!

Lots of kids are in a hurry to grow up, but since we’re Christians, let’s think about what it really means to grow up. Let’s try to follow our Lord’s example. Let’s try to grow “in wisdom” and “in favor with God and man.” That means, when we grow up, we are growing closer and closer to God! And that’s something we can all do—kids and mothers and fathers and grandparents too. We can all keep “growing up,” growing closer to our Lord!

SAINT SERAPHIM OF SAROV: A PEACEFUL SAINT

Saint Seraphim was a saint who really did want to “grow in favor with God.” He knew that a good way to do that was by talking to God. So he prayed...a lot!

For 25 years, Saint Seraphim lived in the wilderness. He had a little hut in the woods there, and he would spend most of his time praying. Once, he spent 1,000 nights—that’s almost three whole years—on his knees, praying to God. Do you think you can go for even a few minutes?

Once, some thieves came and beat him up, but Saint Seraphim never fought them. The thieves didn’t find any money—only an icon to the Theotokos.

Saint Seraphim reminds us to try to be peaceful and gentle. He said that when we get a peaceful spirit, “thousands around you will be saved.” That means that when we are peaceful, we can make a big huge difference in other people’s lives too! Think about today or yesterday. Can you think of a time when somebody made you angry or annoyed? We can choose to either fight back and argue, or we can be more like the great example of Saint Seraphim, this peaceful saint.

We celebrate the nameday of Saint Seraphim tomorrow, January 2nd.

We’re on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org