

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Camp Nazareth:  
<http://www.campnazareth.org>

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube:  
<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>



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## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Epistle is Galatians 4:4-7. The Gospel is from Matthew 2:1-12. Nativity 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, December 25, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord

**Monday, December 26, 9 AM** –  
Divine Liturgy – Synaxis

**Tuesday, December 27, 9 AM**  
– Liturgy – Feast of St. Stephen

**Wednesday, December 28, 7 PM** –  
Titans Hockey Game at the Danbury Ice Arena

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

On behalf of Pani and our Family, we want to greet all of you on this the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity. May the joy of this season ever abide in your hearts and give you Peace and Comfort all the days of your life. May all of us search out the Christ child in our lives as did the Magi who searched far and wide to find the King of Peace. May we all bow down and worship Him who bowed the heavens and became man for us and our salvation.

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

With all my love and prayers,

Fr. Luke

### Readers Schedule

12/25 – Paul Toaso  
1/1 – Bob Faubel  
1/8 – Susan Paltauf  
1/15 – Susan Sulich  
1/22 – Paul Sulich  
1/29 – Harry Fong

### Coffee Hour

12/25 – Christmas Day  
1/1 – Open House at Sulich's

### Help Re-stock Our Kitchen:

Paper towels and 10-inch paper plates.

## 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 Wednesday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. With a visit to the Titans Hockey Game at the Danbury Ice Arena

**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.

## CrossRoads Scholarship

The Diocese and a donor are providing scholarships for tuition and travel for two diocesan 11th and 12th grade students to attend the CrossRoad Summer Institute held at Holy Cross/Hellenic College in Brookline, MA.  
**CONTACT:** Fr. Miles at 814-467-7444 or [Frmiles@gmail.com](mailto:Frmiles@gmail.com) by December 22nd, 2016 to apply, or for more information regarding this opportunity.

## | 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## OYMT Fundraiser

**OYMT Holiday Fundraisers**—The Orthodox Youth Mission Team is still selling soup jar mixes for \$8 to raise funds for our summer mission trip through OCMC to Alaska. Also, the Mary Kay Fundraiser for the team is still going on. Finish your last minute holiday shopping downstairs in the hall!

## | New Year's Dance

**New Year's Dance**— Save the Date: Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. We have booked our favorite DJ from last year, Bill Lopez. Plan to get a table with your parish family and bring friends to celebrate the New Year together. For more info see Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich.

## Upcoming Events

**Christmas Day - Divine Liturgy** 10 AM

**Titans Hockey Family Night Out** – December 28

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

**Choir Christmas Caroling:** Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> following coffee hour

**New Year's Dance** — Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

**Choir Workshop** — Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training Session** — Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Myrrh Streaming Icon Visit** —Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Meeting** — Sunday, January 29, 2017

### Birthdays

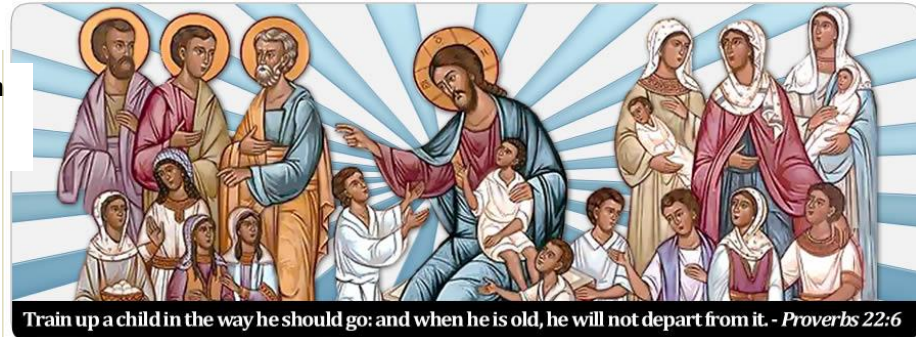
December	
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30
January	
Andres Villa	1
Adam Varney	2
Pablo Gabriel Villa	3
James Kavallines	10
Nicholas Huott	18
Kate Kerpchar	27
Connie Somoskovec	30

**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.

## For the Children

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
74 Joes Hill Rd  
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“... a place of refuge full of love and joy.”



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - Proverbs 22:6

Have you ever had trouble finding the perfect Christmas gift for somebody? It's hard to find something that would really fit somebody perfectly.

Today is the feastday of the Nativity, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! In the Gospel reading, we hear how when the wise men came to worship the baby Jesus, they brought Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Is that the kind of present you would give to a new baby? Probably not!

But these three gifts really were the perfect gifts for our Lord, because they have extra special meanings behind them! Why did they give gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Well, one of the saints of our Church, Saint Irenaeus, explained just why! Gold was for Christ, because He is King. The incense was given because He is God. (Remember, we use incense when we worship God.) And the myrrh reminds us of how Jesus would die for us. People would put sweet-smelling myrrh on the bodies when they had died. (Remember the myrrh-bearing women?)

These three gifts really were the perfect gifts, because they show just who this holy baby, our Lord Jesus Christ, was!

### MARY, THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS - WHAT'S A SYNAXIS?

Have you ever played a little game, “What does it make you think of?” When you say a word, the other person has to think of a word it makes him think about. So, if you heard “dog,” you might say “cat.” If you heard “king,” you might say “queen” or “crown” or “throne.”

When we think about Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, we can't help but think about one other person, too. Who?

Well, Mary, the Mother of God, of course! Today, we celebrate the Nativity, the birth of Christ. But tomorrow, the feast continues! We celebrate His mother.

In our Church, we call it the “synaxis” of the Theotokos. That word, synaxis, means “coming together.” For many, many years, faithful Christians came together to celebrate some more. They came together to honor the person who made that day happen. We love Jesus's mother very much, and we honor her so many times during the year. We remember how she did what God wanted her to do—how she held God inside of her, how she took care of Jesus as a child, and how she stayed with Him, even when He died on the Cross.

So, today, when we think of what Christmas means, who else does it make you think about?

We celebrate the feastday of the Synaxis of the Theotokos tomorrow, Dec. 26th.



**We're on the Web!**  
[holytrinitydanbury.org](http://holytrinitydanbury.org)