

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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www.holytrinitydanbury.org

<https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard>

Diocesan Website: 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>

Recommended Orthodox Internet
Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

<http://www.ancientfaith.com/>

Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the twenty-sixth
Sunday after Pentecost,
Eleventh Sunday of Luke.
The Epistle Ephesians
5:9-16. The Gospel is
from Luke 18:18-27.
Prophet Zephaniah.

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
hierarchy.

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

December 3, 10 AM – Divine
Liturgy

December 3, 11:30 AM – St.
Nicholas Brunch

Monday, December 4, 7 PM –
Spirituality Class

**Tuesday, December 5, 8:30
AM** – Hours

Tuesday, December 5, 9 AM -
Perogies

Tuesday, December 5, 6 PM –
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of
St. Nicholas. Please observe a
three hour fast before the start
of Liturgy if you plan on
receiving communion.

**Wednesday, December 6, 7
PM** – Catechism Class

**Thursday, December 7, 8:30
AM** – Akathist

Thursday, December 7, 9 AM
– Prayer Class

**Thursday, December 7, 10:30
AM** – Russian Tea Cookie
Making session

Thursday, December 7, 7 PM
– Kielbasa Making

Friday, December 8, 9 AM –
Old Testament Class

Friday, December 8, 10:30 AM
– Set up for Christmas Bake
Sale

**Saturday, December 9, 10 AM
to 3 PM** – Christmas Bake Sale

Saturday, December 9, 4 PM –
Vespers

Sunday, December 10, 10 AM –
Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 10, 3 PM to 7
PM** – Mary Kay Open House at the
rectory to benefit OYMT

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Readers Schedule

12/3 – Luke Mihaylo
12/10 – Sandi Fong
12/17 – Susan Paltauf
12/24 – Paul Sulich

Coffee Hour

12/3 – St. Nicholas Brunch
12/10 – OPEN
12/17 – OPEN
12/24 – OPEN

Help restock our Kitchen: decaf coffee.

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site www.holytrinitydanbury.org

And to those with a Facebook accounts please like our Facebook page posts associated with the fundraising events here <https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

Coffee Hour - We need people to sign up for coffee hour. As a reminder, coffee hour need not be elaborate. Bagels or rolls and butter are fine or anything simple. Consider signing up with someone else to make it easier.

Mary Kay Open House to Benefit OYMT— Please join us for a very special Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 10 from 3 PM-7 PM. 20% of all proceeds will go directly to benefit the Orthodox Youth Mission Team and their amazing work. The Open House will be at the rectory at 74 Joes Hill Road in Danbury. There will be Holiday munchies and beverages and GIFTS for everyone, even the gifter! If you cannot make it but would still like to participate, you may order directly from the website, www.marykay.com/bmihaly and reference "Open House" in the notes section. Thank you so much for your support!

Alcoholism and Addiction

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. Saturday, December 23 at 1 PM.

New Rectory

Great progress is being made in the building of the **new rectory**. We have passed the permitting stage and the old rental property will be demolished within the next couple of weeks. The new rectory is already in production with Westchester Modular and could be set on the property as early as the end of December. Only \$50,000 remains to be raised to complete the rectory. If donations come in to cover the final amount we will not need to use the line of credit to finish the project. Stay tuned for updates and if you haven't already done so, subscribe to our website: www.holytrinitydanbury.org to see construction photos and updates..

Church School

Church School—Our next school will be Saturday, Dec. 16th. We have had an excellent response to the classes and the children and teens have been great. Be sure to take a look at the artwork and what the youth have to say about it on the stairs down to the hall. Class schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: Sat. 12/16 and Fri. 12/22. Saturday morning classes will be from 10:00-12:00 and Friday classes will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please mark these date on your calendar. Children and teens will continue to learn about the Old Testament. There will be art activities, service projects and fun! Please let Roz Mihaylo (rozmihaylo@hotmail.com) know if your child will attend so that we can plan accordingly for art project supplies, etc.

OYMT 2018

Orthodox Youth Mission Team 2018—Next Sunday, Dec. 3rd, we will have the first gathering of the 2018 mission team here at Holy Trinity from 3:00-6:00 p.m. to work on our holiday fundraiser. If you have not given Susan Sulich your paperwork and deposit please bring to the meeting. We have the largest group ever going from our parish and we welcome all our new team members. It is not too late to sign up. The trip is scheduled for July 7-16th and training sessions will begin in January. If you have questions about OYMT see Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich.

Preschool Church School

Preschool Church School – We will be having a church school class for our preschoolers led by Stasia Thompson on Dec. 16th and the time to 10:00 to 11:00 (during the first hour of our older youth class). If your preschooler will attend, please let Stasia know by phone: 203-837-6248.

Parish Christmas Card

Parish Christmas Card: We will once again be printing a Christmas card to send out from our parish. List will be circulating at coffee hour. Please make sure your or your family's name is listed as you wish. Donations for printing and postage are greatly appreciated (\$20 suggested donation).

Prayer Group

Prayer Group--Our prayer group class meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Akathist service). This week we will be starting a new book: Churchianity vs. Christianity by Met. Anthony Bloom. All our welcome!

St. Nicholas Brunch

St. Nicholas Brunch—On Sunday, Dec. 3rd we will have our St. Nicholas Brunch following liturgy. Please sign up to bring a main dish, side or dessert. This is a no fasting day! St. Nicholas has been asked to visit the children of our parish that day. This is also the day to bring a gift and reveal yourself to your Secret Santa recipient.

Ladies Ornament Exchange

Save the Date: Ladies Ornament Exchange at Susan Sulich's home, 81 Rita Dr., Friday, Dec. 15th at 6:30 p.m. All ladies and young ladies are welcome! Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament if you want to participate in the exchange part. RSVP to Susan at ssulich@yahoo.com/203-746-6008.

Perogie Sessions | Advent Collection for Dorothy Day | Tree Help Wanted

Perogie Sessions—we will be meeting to make perogies this Tuesday: Dec. 5th to refill our freezers for the Christmas sale which will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9th.

Advent Collection for Dorothy Day—We will be collecting new hats, gloves and socks for men, women and children to donate to Dorothy Day throughout the Advent season. All items can be left in the box at the back of the church. Hats, gloves and socks are in high demand and greatly appreciated during the winter months. We will plan to bring all donated items to the soup kitchen when we serve there on Friday January 5th.

Tree Help Wanted—Our own Holy Trinity “elves” are busy decorating the church for Christmas but we need a tree. Looking for a couple of volunteers who might be available next weekend to cut down a tree from Fr. Luke’s Tree Farm and bring back and set up at the church.

Birthdays

December	
Luke Faubel	4
Michael Kerpchar	8
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

As we once again enter the Season of the **Nativity Fast**, Bishop Gregory asks you, actually pleads with you, the good faithful people of our Diocese, to join him on a journey to meet the new born King. During these 40 days leading to the Nativity of our Lord let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, in receiving the Eucharist.

This year, just like the last two years, **he is challenging everyone, clergy and laity, to offer a special prayer for peace during evening prayers.** During the Litany of Fervent Supplication at each Divine Liturgy a special petition is also to be included. The text of these prayers will be provided to the Clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say the prayer with their parents before they go to bed.

Upcoming Events

St. Nicholas Brunch – Sunday, December 3rd –

Holiday Open House to Benefit OYMT—Sunday Dec. 10th 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Rectory

New Year’s Dinner Dance— Saturday, January 13th

OYMT Fundraising Meeting - Sunday Dec. 3rd 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Ladies Ornament Exchange—Friday, Dec. 15th 6:30 p.m.

Charitable Coffee Hour to Benefit OCMC—Sunday Dec. 10th

Monthly St. Nectarios Service—Thursday Dec. 21st 7:00 p.m.

Church Council Meeting— Sunday Dec. 10th following coffee hour

Dorothy Day—Friday Jan. 5th 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Trip to Slovakia

Trip to Slovakia—We are working to put together a parish trip to Slovakia for August 2018. We have been in contact with Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky who did an excellent job planning and making arrangements for our trip to Greece and Macedonia. Please let Fr. Luke know as soon as possible if you plan to go on the trip.

Christmas Bake Sale

Holiday Bake Sales—Hard to believe but our Christmas Craft and Bake Sales is right around the corner. Our Christmas Sale will be Sat. Dec. 9. We are looking for makers of handmade artisan crafts for our sale. A table is \$35. Please see Susan Sulich if you would like to reserve a space for one or both sales. Also, pre-orders are greatly encouraged for our nut and fruit rolls, perogies, stuffed cabbage, cookies, kielbasa and other items. Order forms available in the hall.

Bake Sale Cooking

Bake Sale Cooking—we’re down to the last week before our Christmas Bake sale and the following cooking will take place this week:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m.: Perogies

Thursday following Prayer Group: Russian Tea Cookies

Thursday evening (add time): Kielbasa

Friday following Old Testament class: Bake sale set up

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



Donations—Going forward we would like to institute a new policy regarding donations of items to the church. While we are very grateful that parishioners want to offer the church items that might be useful, we have a limited amount of space. As we try to reorganize the hall and maximize the storage space that we have available we ask you to go through our new Donations Coordinator, Elaine Toaso, if you wish to donate something to the church. Please speak to Elaine (elaine.toaso@gmail.com) before bringing any items in and she will be able to tell you (or find out from the parish council) if the items can be utilized. Thank you!

New Year's Dinner Dance—Plans are underway for our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. It will take place on Saturday, January 13th and tickets will be \$35 per person which will include dinner (BYOB) and music and entertainment by our favorite DJ, Bill Lopez. Invite your friends and plan to come and enjoy the evening. To reserve tickets or a table of 8 or 10, see Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich.

We're on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org

The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **2018 CrossRoad** program. CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Participants from all over the country come together to experience daily worship, take theology classes from some of the best professors in the country, visit local parishes, serve their neighbor, tour the city, and even spend a day at the beach. Historically, CrossRoad has been hosted solely on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross. This year, we are excited to announce that CrossRoad is expanding to Chicago! This summer, there will be a third session offered on the campus of North Park University in Chicago, IL.

CrossRoad Chicago is the same program, run by the same staff, in a brand new location! The sessions are as follows: Session 1 - June 16 – June 26 (Boston) Session 2 July 2 – July 12 (Boston) Session 3 - July 21 – July 31 (Chicago)

Scholarships covering the registration and tuition fee will be available to our Diocesan students who apply and are accepted to any one of the three sessions.

Diocesan Students interested in attending are asked to apply to the program before the February 1, 2018 Deadline. Upon acceptance, students are kindly asked to contact Fr. Stephen Lopusky, Diocesan Director of Youth at campnazareth@acrod.org or 724-662-4840.

For the Children

Has anybody ever told you to be quiet? If you were a little too loud at home, your parents probably told you to keep it down. It's hard to keep quiet when you really want to say something!

Today we read the Gospel passage about the blind man, whom Jesus healed. This poor man was sitting by the road begging. When somebody told him Jesus was passing by, he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people around him told him to be quiet, but the blind man couldn't keep quiet! In fact, he cried out for Jesus even more loudly. When Jesus heard the man, He healed him so he could finally see! So, it was a good thing he didn't keep quiet!

Sometimes you might feel embarrassed to say your prayers or to go to church—especially if you're the only one. When you get older, your friends might want to do fun things right when you want to go to church or say your prayers! Other people might even laugh or make fun of you when you say a prayer before a meal or when you go off to church. But let's remember the blind man in the Gospel today. He had something to say to the Lord, and nobody could keep him quiet about it! Let's try to keep our prayer time as a special time nobody can take away.

SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN: A BABY'S VOTE FOR BISHOP!

Would you listen if a baby told you something important? Probably so! There is a story about how a baby said something important about Saint Ambrose— and everybody listened!

Saint Ambrose of Milan (Italy) wasn't always a Christian. His father was a pagan and believed in false gods, so Ambrose was not baptized when he was young (like you probably were). But one day, a baby said out loud, "Ambrose should be bishop!" Of course, everybody was so surprised—first that the baby could talk, and second that he thought Ambrose should be bishop. After all, Ambrose wasn't even a baptized Christian yet! But St. Ambrose was soon baptized, and then quickly became a deacon, then a priest, then a bishop.

St. Ambrose was a wonderful saint. Many people became Christian because of his words and his actions. As bishop, he remembered to take care of the poor people, too. Sometimes, emperors and other leaders would do wrong things, and St. Ambrose would stand up to them and set them right. He wasn't shy to say what was right and what was wrong—just as we shouldn't be either! St. Ambrose wrote many things for us to learn about God. We still have many of his writings today—1700 years later. That shows he is still important to us even now!

We celebrate the nameday of St. Ambrose on Thursday, Dec. 7th (Dec. 19th, OC).