

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/>

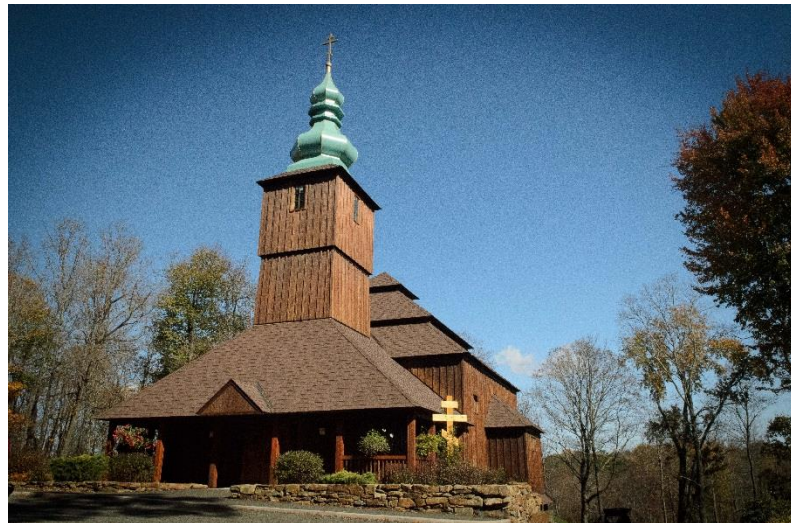
Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Twelfth Sunday of Luke. The Epistle Ephesians 6:10-17. The Gospel is from Luke 17:12-19. Martyrs Menas, Hermogene and Euphragus.

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

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Sunday, December 10, 10 AM
– Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 10, 1 PM
– Parish Council Meeting

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

Monday, December 11, 7 PM
– Spirituality Class

Tuesday, December 12, 8:30 AM – Third Hour

Wednesday, December 13, 7 PM – Catechism Class

Thursday, December 14, 8:30 AM – Akathist

Thursday, December 14, 9 AM
– Prayer Class

Friday, December 15, 9 AM – Old Testament Class

Friday, December 15, 6:30 PM
– Ladies Ornament Exchange

Saturday, December 16, 10 AM to 12 noon – Church School

Saturday, December 16, 3 PM
– Vespers

Saturday, December 16, 4:15 PM – Choir Christmas caroling at Macy's

Sunday, December 17, 10 AM
– Divine Liturgy - Sunday of Forefathers

Readers Schedule

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

Coffee Hour

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— 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). Today is the last day to get your name on the card. If anyone will not be there today and wants to be on the card please email your or your family's name as you wish it to appear to Susan Sulich at ssulich@yahoo.com.

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!

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.

Support OYMT

Help Support the Orthodox Youth Mission Team—OYMT has made soup mix and hot cocoa jars that are beautifully packaged and ready for holiday gift giving. Jars are for sale in the hall. The cost is \$8. Please help our youth fund their ASP trip this summer. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Advent Collection for Dorothy Day

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.

Christmas Decorations and Tree

Thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield and Paul Sulich—Thanks is extended to Bill and Stella Woodfield who have quietly been decorating our parish for Christmas. It is truly a work of beauty. Also a big Thank you to Paul Sulich who went out and got our parish Christmas tree this Saturday. He had help from Harry Fong to set the tree up in the church. Thanks Paul and Harry.

Birthdays

December	
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

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

Charitable Coffee Hour to Benefit OCMC—Sunday Dec. 31st

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

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

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

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

Annual Parish Meeting—Sunday, Jan. 21st following liturgy

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

OYMT Training Session—Sunday, Jan. 21st 3:00-5:00 (Adult leaders 5:00-6:00)

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—Thank you to everyone who helped out at our Christmas Bake Sale. Not only all those who helped to cook and bake, but also those who set up, help work the tables, fill orders, work the kitchen and serve food. Despite the snowy weather we had plenty of people come and more will come during the week to fill their orders. There is still plenty of food available.

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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.

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

Did you ever get really lost? Maybe you were even riding around with your parents, and you couldn't find where you wanted to go. It helps to have some tool to show you the way, doesn't it? A map, or GPS, or just somebody's directions.

Saint Paul gave some advice to the new Christians in the city of Ephesus—almost 2,000 years ago! We read Saint Paul's words in the epistle today because they are good advice for us Christians too (that's why we still read them!).

Saint Paul wrote, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." God calls each one of us to follow Him. He calls each one of us to listen to His words and to do them. He calls us to try to be like our perfect Lord, Jesus Christ. He asks us to do that.

But remember, God doesn't force us to follow Him. He doesn't *force* us to be good Christians.

When we follow Christ and His teachings, it's like we are following a map. We'll always know the right way to go! But if we try to do things our way, and we don't listen to directions, we are going to get lost. Let's live our lives the way God has called us!

MOTHER AND SON: SAINTS ELEUTHERIOS AND ANTHIA

Sometimes, just sometimes, kids have trouble listening to their parents when they give them advice. Sometimes we want to do things our way and nobody else's. But this week we celebrate a saint who listened to his mother and became a great Christian because of it!

As a child, Saint Eleutherios listened to his mother, who told him about our Lord, Jesus Christ. When he was a little older, she sent him to learn from the bishop. Even though he was young, the bishop ordained him to be a deacon, and then a priest. Soon, he became a bishop, too.

Lots of people were becoming Christians because of Saint Eleutherios, and the emperor (who didn't believe in our one, true God) didn't like it one bit. He sentenced our saint to be killed for the faith. His mother, Anthia, came to visit her son. She wanted to give him strength and to tell him not to give up. For that, she was killed too.

The word "Eleutherios" means "freedom" in Greek. And his life always reminds us that we are always free to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even when things are hard, even if people make fun of us, even if we are hurt for it. We can always choose to follow Him!

We're on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org