

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/acroddioocese>

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

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet
Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

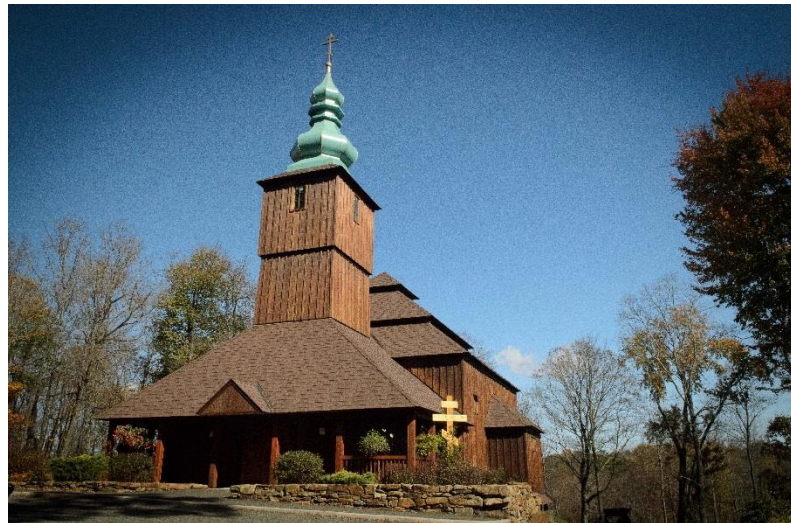
Today is the Sunday before the Nativity. The Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. The Gospel is from Matthew 1:1-25. Martyr Eugenia.

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 24, 10 AM

– Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 24, 5PM – Holy Supper (covered dish) - Strict Fast (No meat, dairy or alcohol)

Sunday, December 24, 7 PM

– Christmas Eve Services and the singing of Christmas Carols

Monday, December 25, 10 AM

– Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus – No Fasting from December 25, Nativity of Christ until January 5 the Eve of Theophany

Tuesday, December 26, 9 AM

– Divine Liturgy Christ – Synaxis of the Mother of God

Wednesday, December 27, 9 AM

– Divine Liturgy - Feast of St. Stephen

Saturday, December 30, 5 PM

– Vespers

Sunday, December 31, 10 AM

– Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 1, 10 AM

– Divine Liturgy – Feast of St. Basil

Church School	2
Icon of Inexhaustible Cup	2
Church School	2
New Years Dance	2
Envelopes	2
Upcoming events	3
Advent Collections	3
CrossRoads	4

Readers Schedule

12/24 – Susan Paltauf
12/31 – Harry Fong
1/7 – Christopher Mihaly
1/14 – Suzanne Molineaux

Coffee Hour

12/24 – Nicu and Anna
12/31 – OPEN
1/7 – Suad & Roger
1/14 - Young

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—the holiday Mary Kay sale to benefit OYMT will continue today during coffee hour. Please check out the great variety of beautifully wrapped gifts for everyone on your list. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

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..

New Year's Dinner

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.

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.

Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—We will be cooking and serving the meal at Dorothy Day on Friday, January 5th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. If you are able to serve, let Susan Sulich know. New servers are always welcome including our home from college and high school students.

Envelopes

Envelopes—If you use envelopes for your pledge/collection please pick them up in the church hall. All those who had envelopes last year should have a box with your name on it. If anyone else would like envelopes we have extras. Just let Luke or Roz Mihaylo know what number is on your box.

Prayer Group

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

Support OYMT | Advent Collection for Dorothy Day | Christmas Decorations and Tree

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—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. Next Sunday, Dec. 31st, will be the last day to bring in socks, hats and gloves for Dorothy Day.

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.

Birthdays

December	
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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

Monthly St. Nectarios Service—Thursday, Jan. 18th 7:00 p.m.

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

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.

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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!

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

Angels. Shepherds. Wise men. Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Even as the littlest kid, you knew the story. But you know lots of stories, don't you? What's different about the Christmas story?

Well, the Christmas story is true! And it brings you joy! On Christmas Eve, we'll hear about the shepherds, who saw an angel standing in front of them. And what did he say? "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people."

To ALL people? Not just for my family and me? Not just for my friends at church? Not just for Christians? No! Joy to all people. Joy to the world!

Sometimes we might think that our Lord, Jesus Christ is just for us Christians. But the Bible tells us that He came to earth to bring joy to ALL people. Our Lord wants to save the whole world, not just a little group. Did you know that YOU can help bring that joy to all the world? When you try to be like Christ, you help bring joy to the world. When you are kind and loving to others, you can share the joy of Christ to everybody around you...even people who aren't Christians, even people who don't go to your church, or to any church at all! Yes, joy to all the world!

SAINT EUGENIA: KEEPING YOUR EYES ON CHRIST

Have you ever forgotten to do something, because you're just too busy? Just when you're so busy wrapping Christmas presents and hanging your stocking up, some of us might forget about one of the best saints of our Church—Saint Eugenia. Every year, we celebrate her nameday on Christmas Eve.

Saint Eugenia's father was a prefect—a nobleman in Alexandria, Egypt, which means he ruled over people there. But even though Eugenia probably had lots of money and lots of other things to think about, she learned about Jesus Christ. She was even baptized as a Christian. (When she lived, being a Christian still was not allowed.) When she was a young woman, she secretly left Alexandria and joined a monastery. She wanted to focus only on being a good Christian.

Later, some people found her and tried to get her in trouble. They brought her to the prefect, who happened to be her own father! She told him that she was Eugenia, and she also told him about Christ. Her father became a Christian then, too. That didn't get them off the hook though. They were Christians, and that meant they would be put to death. St. Eugenia faced her death with love and hope for Christ!

Let's not forget St. Eugenia! Let's remember her bravery, always focused on Christ, even when things were hard for her.

We're on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org