

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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[www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org)

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

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://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 of the Forefathers. The Epistle Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Prophet Haggai.

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

His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, is our diocesan ruling hierarch.

Divine Liturgy is offered Sunday at 10 am. As a 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 16, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

A Panachida will be served for Michael, who is Ken and Diana Borsari's son-in-law.

**Sunday, December 16, 11:30 PM** – OPEN House at rectory

**Monday, December 17, 7 PM** – Spirituality class

**Tuesday, December 18, 8:30 AM** – Hours

**Wednesday, December 19, 7 PM** – Adult Catechism Class

**Thursday, December 20, 8:30 AM** – Akathist

**Thursday, December 20, 9:15 AM** – New Testament Class

**Thursday, December 21, 7 PM** – St. Nectarios Service

**Friday, December 21, 9 AM** – Old Testament Class

**Saturday, December 22, 5 PM** – Vespers

**Sunday, December 23, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

Your Advent Spiritual Reading is: **Parenting Toward the Kingdom:**

**Orthodox Christian Principles of Child-Rearing** is a book by Dr. Philip Mamalakis who is a professor at Holy Cross Seminary.

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## Readers Schedule

12/16 – Sandi Fong  
12/23 – Susan Paltauf

## Coffee Hour

12/16 – New Rectory Open House and blessing  
12/23 - OPEN

## Help Re-stock Our Kitchen—

decaf coffee, sturdy 10-inch paper plates, bowls

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site

[www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://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/holytrinitydanbury/?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.

**Food Safety Courses**—We will be looking to update our food safety certifications to meet new Health Department regulations. If you are interested in taking a half day food handler safety class please let Susan Sulich know.

## New Address for:

Ken and Diana Borsari  
13 Hilltop Road  
Katonah, NY 10536

## Church School

**Church School:** Our schedule of classes will be as follows:

**Dec. 27, 28 or 29 –** Christmas Vacation Outing to Ridgefield Rec Center: Exhibition of student work, reception, basketball/swimming

## | Clothing Drive

**Clothing Drive –** A BIG – HUGE – THANK YOU to Ann Huott and the ENTIRE Huott Family for heading up and Clothing Drive. We collected over 200 bags of clothes. Please hold all donations for our next drive. Many thanks to Ann Huott and her family for continuing to run this very profitable fundraiser for our parish!

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## Adult Education Opportunities

We have a number of adult education classes going on currently:

**Spirituality Class –** Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Currently reading and discussing: *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Dr. Philip Mamalakis

**Catechism Class –** Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. For those studying to come into the Church and those in the Church who want to deepen their understanding and participation in the Faith. We are starting a new Book. It is *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

**New Testament –** Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. currently were are reading and studying *The Acts of the Apostles*

**Old Testament Class –** Fridays at 9:00 a.m. We have begun Joshua.

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## New Rectory Open House

**New Rectory Open House**—on Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in lieu of coffee hour, everyone is invited up to the new rectory for an open house to see the fruits of the labors of the entire parish to achieve this huge accomplishment.

## | OYMT

**OYMT Holiday Pie Sale**—the Orthodox Youth Mission Team will be selling unbaked apple pies just in time for all your holiday celebrations. Pies are \$12 and come with baking instructions. If you would like to pre-order or buy a pie, see one of the OYMT team members: Grace Radcliff, Nataly and Adrien Guerrero, AJ Villa, Jacob, Anthony and Martin Villa and Luke Faubel. There is still time to join OYMT for 2019. If interested, please see Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich.

## | Ladies Christmas Party

**Ladies Christmas Party**—All the ladies of the parish are invited to a Christmas get together on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. at Susan Sulich's home, 81 Rita Dr., New Fairfield, CT 06812. R.S.V.P. to Susan. Bring a wrapped item you'd like to give away for a "White Elephant" swap if you wish.

## Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series Launches

Our Diocese is pleased to announce a series of **Parenting Workshops** designed to help parents raise their children in the Faith. The title of the series is "Raising Believing Children" and will focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church in a world that is filled with doubt and most often works against their Faith. The Workshops are for parents of any age – you're never too old to be a son or daughter, and likewise you're never too old to be a parent! This series of Parenting Workshops will be hosted

by different Churches and Deaneries around our Diocese starting in March 2019. The first Workshop in the Series will be hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Rockaway, NJ on March 2, 2019. The first will feature His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa and Very Rev. Stephen Loposky as presenters and workshop facilitators. Each workshop will be broadcast live online and will be archived for later viewing as well, and will include both presentations and small group moderated discussions to allow participants to help each other in their lives as parents. This is an exciting

and important endeavor. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory invites you to join him in support of parents as our Diocese launches this initiative to help them in their parental vocation.

For more information and to register for the first Workshop, or if you would like to host a Parenting Workshop, visit our Diocesan Website- [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series logo.

### Birthdays

December	
Trianna Gutzman	10
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Save the Date! On Saturday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. Put the date on your calendar and invite friends and family to come celebrate the New Year at this festive party with your parish family! More details to come.

**Mary Kay Fundraiser for OYMT**—Pani Bethany will again be offering a holiday Mary Kay fundraiser to benefit the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. There will be a holiday open house at the rectory with beautiful gifts for everyone on your list on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> between 5-8 p.m. to kick off the fundraiser. 35% of all proceeds will go to OYMT. The fundraiser will run through the holidays. Contact Pani Bethany for a shopping appointment if you are unable to attend the open house or place your order online at [www.marykay.com/bmihaly](http://www.marykay.com/bmihaly).

## Upcoming Events

**New Rectory Open House**—Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> following liturgy

**Monthly St. Nectarios Service**—Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Dorothy Day**—Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1-5 p.m.

**OYMT Mary Kay Holiday Fundraiser Open House**—Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 5-8 p.m.

**Ladies Christmas Party**—Friday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. at Susan Sulich's home.

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

## New Parish Directory | Christmas Decorations

**New Parish Directory**—At long last, we have an updated parish directory available. Hard copies will be available in the church hall. If you want a digital copy, please email Susan Sulich at [ssulich@yahoo.com](mailto:ssulich@yahoo.com). Many thanks to Pani Bethany, Paul Sulich and Ana Melnic for all the help getting the new directory together.

You have probably noticed over the last few weeks the beautiful change within the church. Every year as part their stewardship towards our parish, **Stella and Bill Woodfield** prayerfully and with utmost care to the Christ Child decorate our church for Christmas. The transformation of parish is breathe taking every year. With the garland, the lights, poinsettias, the Christmas tree, there is always that little extra touch that Stella and Bill bring to make the church

that much more special. A special thank you also to **Paul Sulich and Orestes Mihaly** for cutting down and putting up this years' Christmas tree. In a few years, we will be able to cut our tree from the ones we planted here on our parish property. Many thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield for once again giving their talent and time to beautifully decorate the church for Christmas. Also thanks to Orestes Mihaly and Paul Sulich for getting the Christmas tree.

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"... a place of refuge full of love and joy."

**Christmas Bake Sale—A HUGE**

**THANK YOU** to all those who made our Christmas Sale such a success. From those who came to make more perogies, bake more rolls, cook more stuffed cabbage, bake more cookies and make more jams. To all those who set up the church hall, worked the kitchen, ran the bookstore, fill orders and clean up. It was a total parish effort! God bless all of you for your stewardship to our parish!

**Music of the Christmas Season—Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**, 46 Seymour St., Yonkers, NY will offer a free concert of Christmas music on Wednesday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. There will be a reception and Christmas Bazaar following the concert.

**A makeover**

**Do you know what a “makeover” is?** You might have seen one in a magazine or even on TV. You see pictures of one person, and then you see pictures of that same person with new clothes, a new hairstyle, everything different. That person was made over. You see from the pictures how he or she changed for the better!

Today in the epistle reading, we hear about a different kind of makeover. Saint Paul’s letter talks about how we Christians have to put away our old ways and put on our new ways. We have to get rid of things like “anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self.”

In his letter, Saint Paul was talking to people who had just become Christians. But we can listen to him every day of our lives. That’s because every day, we can try to get a makeover! You can change “the old you” by being gentle and friendly and loving and honest, and with good words coming from your lips. You can change that “old self” of yours into a “new self” by acting the way our Lord wants us to act!

**THE THREE HOLY YOUNG MEN: FAITH EVEN IN THE FIRE**

**We all know stories from** the Old Testament like Jonah and the big fish, Noah’s ark, Adam and Eve, Daniel and the lion’s den. But have you heard the amazing story of the 3 holy young men?

Long ago, before Christ was born, a king named Nebuchadnezzar built a big huge statue of himself. Why? Because he wanted everybody to worship him, and not God! These three boys were friends with the prophet Daniel. They knew it was silly to worship a statue. They only wanted to worship the one, true God. But when they wouldn’t worship the statue of the king, the king grew really angry. He sent them into a blazing furnace, a fire. But inside the fire, the three boys prayed to God. They asked God to help them.

The Bible says that God sent an angel to cool the fire for them. So, instead of feeling hot, the three boys felt a nice, cool dew. They trusted in God, even when things were awful for them. These three young men, named Ananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, knew that God was much more powerful than the king.

What do you think you can learn from these three holy young men? Can you try to trust God as much as they did? Even when things are hard for you?

**We celebrate the 3 holy saints on Monday, Dec. 17th (Dec. 30th, OC)**