

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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

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

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>

Recommended Orthodox Internet  
Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Twenty-fifth  
Sunday after Pentecost.  
The Epistle Ephesians  
4:1-6. The Gospel is from  
Luke 17:12-19. Parapet of  
Thebes.

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 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

Adult Ed	2
Loose Change	2
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Dorothy Day	2
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**Sunday, December 8, 10  
AM – Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday, December 8, 11:30  
AM – Panachida 40<sup>th</sup> Day for  
Martin Howley and Serge  
Mihaly, Jr.**

**Sunday, December 8, 11:30  
AM – St. Nicholas Brunch**

**Monday, December 9, 7 PM  
– Spirituality Class**

**Tuesday, December 10, 8:30  
AM – Hours**

**Tuesday, December 10, 9  
AM – Perogie session**

**Wednesday, December  
11, 7 PM – Adult  
Catechism**

**Thursday, December 12,  
8:30 AM – Akathist**

**Thursday, December 12,  
9:15 AM – New Testament  
Class**

**Thursday, December 12,  
5 PM – Kielbasa Making**

**Friday, December 13, 9  
AM – Old Testament Class**

**Friday, December 13, 11  
AM – Set up for Christmas  
Bake Sale**

**Saturday, December 14,  
10 AM to 3 PM –  
Christmas Bake Sale**

**Saturday, December 14,  
5 PM – Vespers**

**Sunday, December 15, 10  
AM – Liturgy**

**Sunday, December 15, 2  
PM – Baptism of Lukas  
Todosiev**

## Readers Schedule

12/8 – Paul Sulich  
12/15 – Suzanne Molineaux  
12/22 – Christopher Mihaly

## Coffee Hour

12/8 – St. Nicholas Brunch  
12/15 – OPEN  
12/22 – OPEN

## Re-Stock Our Kitchen:

### Paper towels, gallon freezer bags, napkins.

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.

## Parish Christmas Card—

Please check/add your name to the parish Christmas card. Donations toward the cost of printing and postage appreciated (suggested amount \$20).

## Glove collection for Dorothy

**Day** – When we served on Friday we noted that Dorothy Day was very low on warm winter gloves. If you would like please bring in men's or women's gloves over the next few weeks. Please deposit in box in vestibule we will deliver to Dorothy Day. Thank You!

## Council Positions Open | St. Nicholas Brunch

### Council Positions

**Open**—we have several council members whose terms are up in January. We will be looking for a new President, Vice President and Treasurer. Please consider giving your time and talent to one of the positions. Talk to Susan Sulich, Harry Fong or Monika Mihaly to learn more about what's entailed.

**St. Nicholas Brunch**—On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> we will have our St. Nicholas Brunch. This is a fast free day. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall to share what you will bring. We will also reveal our Secret Santa's on that day and exchange gifts. And—hopefully St. Nicholas himself will pay a visit to our parish children!

## | Christmas Bake Sale

**Christmas Bake Sale**—our Christmas Bake and Craft Sale will take place next Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will need helpers:

- Friday 11:00 a.m. Set Up and Cookie and Kielbasa Packaging
- Saturday 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. help set up and Kitchen
- 10:00-3:00 p.m. Fill orders, work in the kitchen, general help and cleanup

Please give whatever time you can!

## 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: *Suffering and the Nature of Healing* by Daniel B. Hinshaw, M.D.

**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 *The Creed*. This discussion of the Nicene Creed—the foundation of our Faith—

begins with a review of Christianity, the Church and Tradition. It offers a definition and an explanation of the Creed.

**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 *1 Samuel*.

## CHANGE our Bottom Line

**CHANGE our Bottom Line**—Please consider donating your spare change toward lowering our mortgage debt. A container is located in the church hall to collect the change and it will be cashed in to contribute to extra mortgage payments.

## | New Year's Dance

**New Year's Dance**—Save the Date! We will be having our New Year's Dinner Dance on Sat. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> featuring our favorite DJ, Bill Lopez. Stay tuned for more details!

## | Dorothy Day

**Dorothy Day**—Our next date to serve at Dorothy Day will be Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Please let Susan Sulich know if you can help for any part of the afternoon.

**Parish Lending Library**  
**Parish Lending Library**  
 — You may have noticed that in the vestibule of the church we have set up a lending library in the first section of the bookcase. There are books there on a variety of topics of interest from the Church Fathers to parenting to the Liturgy and more. There are also a few titles in Spanish. Feel free to check out one or more titles. Just fill out the lending library book with title, name and date.

**Mary Kay Holiday Open House for OYMT**  
**Mary Kay Holiday Open House for OYMT**--On Sunday Dec. 8th from 3-7 pm there will be a Mary Kay Holiday Gift Open House at the Rectory. Pani Bethany will donate 30% of the proceeds to the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. Get beautiful gifts in all price ranges for everyone on your list or treat yourself--and help our youth too!

Birthdays	
December	
Michael Kerpchar	8
Trianna Gutzman	10
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
Elaine Toaso	30

We wish to inform you that our Diocese will once again offer scholarships for High School Juniors and Seniors to take part in the Pan-Orthodox Cross Road Program that takes place each summer in Boston and Chicago. 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 summer, there will be a third session offered on the campus of North Park University in Chicago, IL.

The sessions are as follows:  
 Session 1: June 13-June 23 (Boston-Hellenic College/Holy Cross)  
 Session 2: June 30-July 10 (Boston-Hellenic College/Holy Cross)  
 Session 3: July 20-July 30 (Chicago - North Park University)

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, 2020 Deadline. Upon acceptance, students are kindly asked to contact Fr. Stephen Laposky, Diocesan Director of Youth at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or 724-662-4840.

For more information and to register those interested should visit:

## Upcoming Events

**40<sup>th</sup> Day Service for Martin Howley and Serge Mihaly**—Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> following liturgy.

**St. Nicholas Brunch** — Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

**OYMT Holiday Fundraiser**—Sun. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 3-6 p.m.

**Mary Kay Open House to Benefit OYMT**—Sun. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.

**Kielbasa Making**—Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

**Christmas Bake Sale**—Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Lukas Todosiev's Baptism** — Sunday, December 15 at 2 PM

**Monthly St. Nectarios Service**—Thursday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

**Akathist to Mary for Our Children** — Thursday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 a.m.

**Dorothy Day**—Fri. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**New Year's Dance**—Sat. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

**OYMT Training Session**—Sun. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 p.m. St. Barbara, Orange, CT

**Monthly St. Nectarios Service** — Thursday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

## OYMT Holiday Pie Sale | Last Call for OYMT Team Members

**OYMT Holiday Pie Sale**—They're back! Just in time for all your holiday entertaining, OYMT's homemade apple pies will be for sale starting next Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Pie proceeds will help send our youth to Appalachia this summer for mission work. Cost: \$14 per pie. Save a space on your holiday dessert table for pies that do well and taste great!

**Last Call for OYMT Team Members**—This afternoon from 3-6 p.m. the Orthodox Youth Mission Team will be meeting here to make apple pies for our holiday fundraiser. If you are interested on being on the team this year and have not already done so, or have questions, please talk to Susan Sulich or Fr. Luke. Our training sessions will begin in January.



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



**Quotes by St. John  
Chrysostom**

**A mother experiences more than one death**, even though she herself will only die once. She fears for her husband; she fears for her children; again she fears for the women and children who belong to her children. ... For each of these-whether for loss of possessions, bodily illness, or undesired misfortune-she mourns and grieves no less than those who suffer.

**You cannot pray at home, like you can at church**, where there is a great multitude; where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the unions of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of priests.

**You can set up an altar to God in your minds** by means of prayer. And so it is fitting to pray at your trade, on a journey, standing at a counter or sitting at your handicraft.



*Then opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts - gold, frankincense and myrrh. -Matthew 2: 11*

As we run around purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts for other people this Christmas, we must ask ourselves seriously and soberly, "What gift am I offering to Him this Christmas?" As we are now in the home stretch heading towards the Feast of the Nativity as we count down now the hours until we are at the manger, we have to consider what gift we will bring to Christ at the Nativity. I have always liked the Christmas carol, "The Little Drummer Boy." I especially love the line "I have no gift to bring ... that's fit to give a king ... shall I play for you ... on my drum?" The realization that he has no material gift to bring - but that he has the gift of himself, his talent to offer - is so beautiful. The Little Drummer Boy feels almost sad at his meager gift. The baby Jesus receives this gift with joy: "Then He smiled at me." And then the Little Drummer Boy realizes that his gift was acceptable to Christ, because it was the gift of himself.

When you think about it, what gift do we really have to give to Christ this Christmas? We really have NOTHING to give. We only have things that we can we can GIVE BACK. Because everything we have that is good is from Him. The money that I have that I am using to buy gifts comes as a result of my having a job. My having a job comes as a result of my having a talent. And my having a talent comes as a result of being blessed by God with that talent. Anything I have that is good has God at its origin.

There are things I can give to other people. I can only GIVE BACK to God. So, when I am giving to charity, either to the church or to some charity; I am really giving back to God. He has blessed me with material resources and in giving to charity, I am giving a portion of them back. He has blessed me with time, so when I help another person, I am giving a portion of my time back to Him by helping them.

At times, I feel like the drummer boy, searching for what I can truly GIVE to God that isn't giving back. I have come to realize that there IS ONE THING that we have that doesn't come from God. It is something that we have to cultivate on our own. God helps us in cultivating it. But having this one gift rests more with us than it does with Him. That gift is HUMILITY.

There is only one gift I really have to give to Christ. It is the "broken and humbled heart God will not despise (Ps. 50:17)." Humility is a self-emptying proposition. It is humility that allows us to empty ourselves of anger and be filled with forgiveness towards someone else. It is humility that allows us to empty out pride and be filled with repentance towards Christ. It is humility that allows us to empty ourselves and be filled with Him.

If you think about it, no one can have any of the fruits of the Spirit without humility. Because in order to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, etc., you have to empty yourself. You can't make it all about yourself and still have those things. In order to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit, one has to be filled with the Spirit. In order to be filled with the Spirit, one has to be rid of the things that spoil those fruits - hate, anger, impatience, etc. In order to have faith, the first step is the humble recognition that someone greater than me made me, and therefore I am not the center of the universe, that I should be revolving around God, not the other way around.

Humility makes it all about Him, and not about us. It's interesting to note that in the Old Testament, God sets the commandment of a ten percent tithe to the people of Israel. In the New Testament, God sets the commandment as turning over our whole life to Christ our God. It's supposed to be ALL about Him. To seek to continually decrease in ego, desire and power and to be filled instead with humility is the most profound act of faith there can be. St. Paul writes in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." To live for Christ, to empty ourselves of our own desires and strive to follow after Him, this is humility. And it is humility that leads to glory. Remember the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, Jesus said "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 18:14)."

Take a moment today and ponder on what gift you will bring to the manger this Christmas, realizing that there is really nothing material that you can bring. Take a moment and ponder on what kind of heart you will bring to the manger this year - one filled with pride? With pain? Or one filled with love, one filled with forgiveness, one filled with humility?

It is the broken and humbled heart that God wants as our gift this Christmas!