

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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www.holytrinitydanbury.org

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

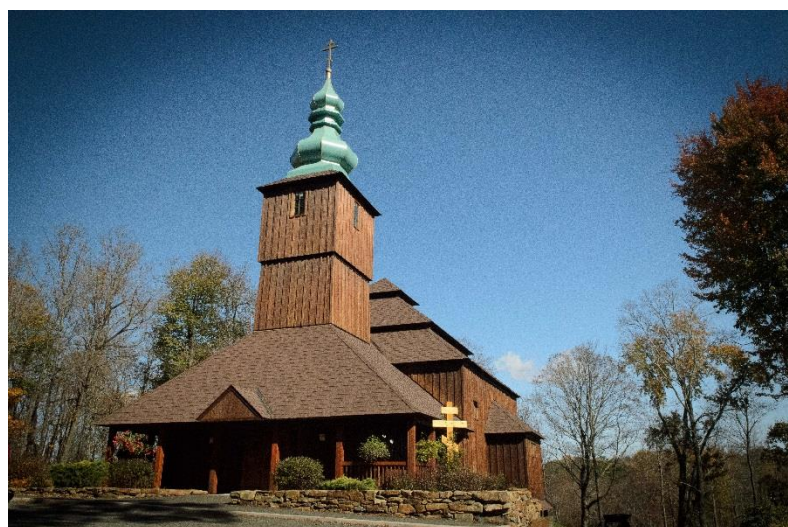
Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the 35th Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle 1 Timothy 1:15-17. The Gospel is from Matthew 15:21-28. Parthenius of Lampascus.

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 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.

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Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, February 7,
10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 8,
7 PM – Spirituality Class

Tuesday, February 9,
9 AM – Perogie Session

Wednesday, February 10,
6 PM – Daily Vespers

Wednesday, February 10,
7 PM – Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, February 11,
9 AM – New Testament Class

Friday, February 12,
9 AM – Old Testament Class

Saturday, February 13,
5 PM – Vespers

Sunday, February 14,
10 AM - Divine Liturgy

Parish Men's Group

Parish Men's Group –

The Men of the Parish will be reading the Book Orthodoxy and the Religions of the Future by Fr. Seraphim Rose.

More information to come. If you are interested in attending and/or would like more information on the Parish Men's Group, please contact Fr. Luke.

| Perogies Sessions

Perogies Sessions—It's time to make the perogies again for our upcoming monthly and Easter bake sales. We will be starting sessions this Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and will continue (weather-permitting) until we make our quotas. Note: This Tuesday, we will have liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord at 8 AM. Perogie session will start after liturgy. As a reminder, if the weather is bad, we follow the Danbury school schedule—if delayed, we delay; if cancelled we cancel. New pinchers always welcome!

| Church School

Middle/High School

Church School—Fr. Luke had a successful session with our older youth this past Friday. We will be looking to continue this time for our middle and high school students. Fr. Luke has asked all youth in this age group to let him know of any movies, series or books that they are interested in so they can be shared and discussed in class.

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.

Game Dinner Supplies—we are looking for parishioners to donate some of the supplies such as 2-liter bottles of soda, water, disposable table cloths, etc. that we need for the Game Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall if you are able to contribute any items.

Directory Update—we are in the process of doing our semi-annual directory update. If your contact information (phone number, email address, mailing address) have changed and you did not make changes on the directory at the Annual meeting, please email them to Ana Melnic at ani.melnic@gmail.com.

Adult Education Opportunities

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

Spirituality Class – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. This week we will be starting a new book: *Confession and*

Repentance by Saint Nectarios

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'll be starting a new book soon, *Acquiring the Mind of Christ*.

New Testament – Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. currently we are reading and studying *St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*

Old Testament Class – Fridays at 9:00 a.m. We have begun *2 Chronicles*.

Classes will resume in the church hall this week. We will also continue to make them available via Zoom (live, same credentials).

DIOCESAN "HOMEROOM" MINISTRY

Calling all youth ages 5-18...If you signed up for the new Diocesan "Homeroom" Ministry, don't forget to PARTICIPATE online each week by posting comments, pictures and videos. Parents, if you signed your child up for the "Homerooms", help them to participate. We have 65 youth from 27 parishes across the Diocese signed up for the "Homerooms", but not all are participating yet. If you need any help logging on, downloading the app, or posting, or have any questions, please email fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com. Thank you!!

COVID-19 Reminders

State of CT is religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings, if held indoors, are limited to no more than 50 percent of the building's capacity or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is lower, and such services, if held outdoors, are limited to the number of people that can be accommodated safely, provided that all persons present wear masks, unless speaking from designated safe locations, and that a distance of 6 feet is maintained between all persons or groups not from the same household.

- If you feel sick or a running a fever, please stay home until you feel better

- No one is being pressured to come to the church if you are in a high-risk population or simply don't feel comfortable.
- Connecticut since June 17 allows for private meetings of up to 25 people. We will hold all our adult classes now at the parish with social distancing along with having classes on Zoom.
- Everyone is asked to wear a mask during services and to sing quietly
- Please use hand sanitizer

| Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve to serve at Dorothy Day will be Friday, April 2nd from 2:00-4:30 p.m. As a reminder, we are packaging and handing out bag lunches to the hungry in the community and also preparing lunches and breakfasts that are brought to area hotels where shelter guests are currently being housed and senior housing. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Farrah or Susan Sulich.

Birthdays

February	
Rick Reynolds	8
Charles & Virginia Hull - Anniversary	8
Pani Carol Beck Paproski	8
Emily Varney	13
Andrell (AJ) Villa	13
Rob & Andrea Paltauf - Anniversary	14
Rick & Lisa Farah - Anniversary	14
Kristina Bundra	20
Zachary Wolfe	23
Nicu Melnic	26

Upcoming Events

Monthly Bake Sale—Thursday, Feb. 4th 4-6 p.m.

Game Dinner—Saturday, Feb. 27th (stay tuned for Covid-safe details!)

Dorothy Day—Fri. Feb. 5th 1 p.m.

Forgiveness Sunday - Sunday, March 14

Parish Council Meeting—Sunday, Feb. 21st, following coffee hour

Easter Bake Sale—Saturday, March 27th 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Game Dinner Feb. 27th

Game Dinner Feb. 27th—Plans are underway for our annual game set for Sat. Feb. 27th. Modified due to COVID, we will have two seatings: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. with a limit of 30 people per seating. If you and your family want to attend, please sign up for a table of 2, 4, 6, or 8 today at coffee hour. This week the flyer for the dinner will be sent out and opened to others so we want to make sure parishioners have first choice. Also, we will need extra help with serving this year, as well as people to cook game or ethnic dishes, clean up and contribute raffles items/baskets. Please sign up at coffee hour for whatever way you can help. This is our parish's major fundraiser for the winter. Thank you!

| Clothing Drive

Clothing Drive— We just received our latest check for \$357.50 for the clothing drive! We are continuing to accept more donations. Many thanks to Ann Huott and her family for their ongoing work on this project which has brought in over \$3,000 for our parish! For the last pick up they had 200 bags. Please bring in clothes, shoes, linens and other soft items in plastic garbage bags to the church. If you are uncertain what items are eligible, see the list at the candlestand or contact Ann.

Pay Down Our Mortgages—

This week we made a payment to the principal of the rectory mortgage of almost \$3,000. That money represents the amount that was saved from reducing the mortgage rate this year (which was decided would go back to the paying down the principle), the contents of our change jar and a private donation. The change jar is in the hall so please remember to drop in your loose change when possible. Sarah Mannello will explain at our annual meeting on the 24th how regularly payments to principal can reduce the length of our loan and save the church over \$8,000.

Jesus, Our Final High Priest

February 3, 2021 · [Fr. Barnabas Powell](#)

. Look at our Lesson today in Hebrews 9:11-14:

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

St. Paul is attempting to help these Hebrew Christians realize that they are exactly where they need to be. He mentions the “greater and more perfect tent” which is a reference to the Tabernacle the Jews traveled within the desert and it was also called the “tent of meeting.” But the greater tent refers to Christ Himself Who is, as we say in the liturgy, he Who is “the Offerer and the Offered, the One who receives and is distributed.” Paul tells these Christians that the image of sacrifice and the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer makes a person ceremonially clean for Temple worship, how much more will the sacrifice of Christ Himself clean the very soul of a man! In other words, what we have in Christ is better than the outward sacrificial that was meant to train us how to understand the ultimate and final sacrifice of Christ Himself in the fight to defeat sin, death, and Satan.

Paul goes on to tell us that this purification of the whole person by the grace of God is to “purify” our conscience “from dead works to serve the living God.” By this, he does not mean the works of righteousness, love, and kindness. He does not mean to suggest that works of obedience or the spiritual and even physical labor of the liturgical life are “dead works.” Not at all. Paul means the old way of sacrifice in the Temple is “dead” or it has served its purpose. Now we are purified by grace through faith so that our works are motivated not by a fear we are “unclean” but by a motivation of gratitude for the grace given to us by Christ!

In other words, all the old law was meant to do was to tutor us in our spiritual infancy so that when Christ came, we could then graduate to having our lives lived in grateful labors motivated by love instead of fear or obligation or mere rule-keeping. A person who has graduated to the “not made with hands” faith is shaped by his love for God and not driven by some fear of God or a narcissistic motivation to get God to “give me something.” This eternal liberty to love and be grateful is why the central act of worship in the Orthodox Church is the Holy Eucharist; the ultimate sacrifice of praise and gratitude!

Today, are you still trying to get God to love you by doing religious stuff? Are you motivated by your desire to get God to give you something because you've been a “good boy?” That's the old religion. The Faith of Christ now offers you a path based on gratitude and true love for God and a “not made with hands” faith that makes you Orthodox on Purpose!

P.S. O Lord, Great and Mighty, and beyond both knowing and unknowing, You, alone, are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You complete all the shadows of all the rituals of our past and fill all our worship with the singular call to fix our eyes on You, the Lord and Savior Who is both fully God and fully man. You make the way for us to be reunited with the Father and have His life flow through us for our eternal life. Keep me from a frivolous life that ignores my desperate need to stay connected to You! Amen

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



Help Re-Stock Our Kitchen:
We are in need of paper towels, sturdy plates, bottled water and kitchen size garbage bags. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

Envelopes—Envelopes for weekly donations are in. If you would like to use envelopes to make your weekly offerings please see Susan Sulich at coffee hour. As a reminder, one-time or recurring donations can also be made online via our PayPal found on our website—use the “Donate” button or through your own bank.