

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 Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost, the Sunday of Forefathers. The Epistle Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Repose of St. Herman of Alaska.

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.

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, December 13, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 18, 9 AM – Old Testament Class

Sunday, December 13, 11:30 AM – Panachida for John Derevjaniak

Saturday, December 19, 5 PM - Vespers

Sunday, December 13, 1 PM – Parish Council meeting

Sunday, December 20, 10 AM - Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 14, 7 PM – Spirituality Class

Wednesday, December 16, 7 PM – Adult Catechism

Thursday, December 17, 9 AM – New Testament class

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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

| Parish Christmas Card

Holiday Happenings—We'd like to get our Christmas card to the printer this week so if you have not already done so, please confirm with Lisa Farrah how you wish to be listed on the card. Donations toward postage and printing greatly appreciated. Also, OYMT is putting together gifts for the residents at Bethel Health Care where our Marilyn Zaengle is currently. The cost for each gift (a mug or socks, lotion and Nativity coloring sheet with a personal message) is \$15. If you'd like to contribute for one (or more!) gifts please email or text Pani Bethany (coachbe1@aol.com/[203-482-6224](tel:203-482-6224)) as soon as possible.

| New Liturgy Books

New Liturgy Books—Today we will bless new liturgy books that were graciously donated by Sarah Mannello. Thank you Sarah for this generous gift!

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.

Christmas Decorations—

Once again our “Christmas elves,” Stella and Bill Woodfield have been hard at work decorating our church for Christmas. Many thanks for all their hard work for making the church look so beautiful and festive in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord!

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: *Prayer, Encounter with The Living God* by

Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev.

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 *4 Kingdoms.*

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

Open Parish Council Positions

Open Parish Council Positions—We will have several parish council positions open as of our Annual Meeting in January. We will be looking for a new President, Vice President and Treasurer. Both the President and Treasurer are past their term limits. Please consider giving some time to help manage the business of the parish. Below are “job descriptions” for these three positions. Also, feel free to talk to current

officers (Susan Sulich-Pres., Nick Fong VP, Monika Mihaly, Treasurer) if you have questions or want to learn more about what's involved.

President

- Set the agenda for monthly parish council meetings and annual and semi-annual meetings.
- Lead parish and parish council meetings and see that decisions made for the parish are carried out.
- Sign official documents of the parish and checks as needed.
- Represent the parish at outside events if needed.

Vice President

- Assist with the duties of the President.

- Assume the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President.

Treasurer

- Keep an accurate account of all moneys of the parish.
- Keep the checkbook of the parish.
- Receive, review and pay all bills of the parish.
- Present monthly financial statement at parish council meetings and annual and semi-annual statements at parish meetings.
- Help formulate and maintain an annual budget for the parish.

Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve to serve at Dorothy Day will be Friday, December 5th 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.

| Bake and Craft Sale

Christmas Bake and Craft Sales—Here's an update on these significant parish events. We are hoping to have our holiday bake sales but with some modifications. The sale will be only one day each: Sat. Dec. 12th. If we are able, we will have the sales in the hall with COVID security measures (masks, social distancing, limiting numbers, etc.). We are also prepared to switch to full curbside pick-up if necessary. We are asking all our customers to pre-order. Order forms should go out this week. Stay tuned for more details and cooking/baking help needed.

| Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots—This year our parish is participating in Toys for Tots. Unwrapped toys may be left in the hall today or next Sunday the 13th. If you will not be here on Sunday but would like to drop off a gift during the week, please let us know and we will make arrangements for a time when someone will be at church to receive the gift.

Upcoming Events

Parish Council Meeting—Sun. December 13th following liturgy

Christmas Eve Compline – Thursday, December 24, 7 PM

Christmas Day Divine Liturgy – Friday, December 25, 10 AM

Cards for Marilyn

Cards for Marilyn—Marilyn Zaengle is currently in Bethel Health Care and is only allowed one visitation by Bill per week. If you would like to reach out to her by sending a card, you can mail them to: Ms. Marilyn Zaengle – Room 212D, Bethel Health Care, 13 Parklawn Dr. Bethel, CT 06801. Thank you for all who have mailed cards so far—they are really a bright spot in her week.

| 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.

| Christmas Bake Sale

Christmas Bake Sale—Yesterday we had our Christmas Bake Sale. It was very successful! Many thanks to everyone who helped bake, cook, package and sell our delicious foods. We had many happy and grateful customers and lots of compliments on our food.

Birthdays

November	
Paul & Elaine Toaso - Anniversary	9
Kathryn Kerpchar	9
Nataly Guerrero	10
Lukas Todosiev	10
Sophia Baroody	11
Andrew Timosca	11
Michael Dran	12
Tennessee Molineaux	13
Matthias Robert Paltauf	13
Daniel John Huott	13
Andrei Zubek	21
Sandy Fong	23
Robert Young	27
Nicholas Gross	30
December	
Katarina Betancourt	2
Luke Faubel	4
Dominic Scalzo	6
Sarah Mannello	7
Michael Kerpchar	8
Trianna Gutzman	10
Frank Scalzo	13
Alex Sirak	22
Elaine Toaso	30
Michael Scalzo	31

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



METROPOLITAN GREGORY'S
2020 Nativity PRAYER
CHALLENGE...As we have
been asked in the last 5 years,
so this year all are asked to
include a special prayer each
day of the Nativity Fast. Copies
of the Prayer are attached for
you to take and participate in
this challenge during the Nativity
Fast.

**OYMT Holiday Help for Bethel
Health Care**—The Orthodox

Youth Mission Team is working
to bring some holiday cheer and
hope to residents of Bethel
Health Care where Marilyn
Zaengle is currently. Residents
are currently on lockdown and
not allowed any visitors. Instead
of our annual holiday fundraiser
the team has decided instead to
create care gifts with the help of
Pani Bethany and Mary Kay.
We will be sending mugs or
socks, lotion and a Nativity
coloring sheet to the nursing
home residents with a message
of Hope card made by our team
members. The cost of one gift is
\$15 and we are asking anyone
who is able to make a donation
for one (or more!) of the gifts.
See the attached flyer. If you
would like to donate, please let
Susan Sulich or Pani Bethany
know. In addition, Pani Bethany
will have her annual holiday
Mary Kay shopping event for the
team with 25% of the proceeds
going toward buying additional
nursing home gift packs. Thank
you in advance for your
generosity.

Guidelines for the Nativity Fast - The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. Because it begins the day after the commemoration of the Apostle Philip (Nov. 14th), it is often referred to as the Apostle Philip fast. Although it is as long as Great Lent, it is not as severe. Throughout the entire duration of these forty days there is no accommodation for meat, dairy products and eggs. However, fish is allowed to be consumed every day except Wednesdays and Fridays, from November 15th until December 17th. Fish is also allowed on the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, which falls on November 21st, no matter what day of the week it falls on. From the 18th to the 24th of December, which is Christmas Eve, oil and wine are the only relief from a strict fast, except Wednesdays and Fridays on which we adhere to a strict fast. We should keep a fast of dry foods (xerophagy) also on the first day of the fast on November 15th, as well as on Christmas Eve, unless of course they fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

Do Not Fast:

- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
 - during serious illness;
 - without prayer;
 - without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.

Fasting from Foods and Passions We must always keep in mind that in our Church true fasting is not only about abstaining from certain foods, but also abstaining from the passions and sins. Saint Photios the Great says: "Fasting that is acceptable to God is that which combines the abstention of food with the aversion of chatter, envy, hatred and other sins. The one who fasts from food, but does not temper the passions, is like one who puts a splendid foundation to a house he has built, but allows snakes, scorpions and every poisonous reptile to live within." We thus aim for a spiritual fast during this period, to avoid sin and keep the will of God, being an embodiment of love and forgiveness and mercy, as well as striving to attain even greater virtue. In this way we will better understand and realize the words of Saint Basil the Great: "True fasting is to alienate ourselves from all evil, all sin, all impassioned thoughts, all unclean desires."