

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 Sunday before Nativity. The Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. The Gospel is from Matthew 1:1-25. St. Ignatius of Antioch.

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.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Services/Events | 1 |
| Adult Ed | 2 |
| Parish Men's Group | 2 |
| Church School | 2 |
| Parish Christmas Card | 2 |
| New Liturgy Books | 2 |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries | 3 |
| Cards for Marilyn | 3 |
| Perogie Sessions | 3 |
| Toys for Tots | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Nativity Fast | 4 |

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, December 20, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 21, 7 PM – Spirituality Class

Wednesday, December 23, 7 PM – Adult Catechism

Thursday, December 24, 9 AM – New Testament class

Thursday, December 24, 5 PM – Velija Nativity Eve Supper – Strict Fast Day

Thursday, December 24, 7 PM – Christmas Eve Nocturnes

Friday, December 25, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Saturday, December 26, 5 PM - Vespers

Sunday, December 27, 10 AM - Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27, 11:30 AM – 40 Day Panachida for Orestes Mihaly

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

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!

| 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) as soon as possible.

| Parish Movie Night

Save the Date for Movie Night—We are planning a movie night on Sat. Jan. 16th in the Church Hall following Vespers at 6 p.m. We are planning to watch "Paul, the Apostle."

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.

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots—Many thanks to all those who donated a gift for Toys for Tots. And thank you to Paul Toaso for coordinating and delivering the toys.

| Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale—We had a great Christmas sale last week. There are some perogies, rolls and kielbasa still available, however. If you wish to purchase, see Lisa Farrah or Susan Sulich at coffee hour.

| Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve to serve at Dorothy Day will be Friday, Feb. 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.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Compline – Thursday, December 24, 7 PM

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

Parish Movie Night—Sat. Jan. 16th 6 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting—Sun. Jan. 17th following Liturgy

Annual Meeting—Sun. Jan. 24th following Liturgy

Dorothy Day—Fri. Feb. 5th 1 p.m.

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.

| 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!

Birthdays

| December | |
|---|----|
| Alex Sirak | 22 |
| Elaine Toaso | 30 |
| Michael Scalzo | 31 |
| January | |
| Andres Villa | 1 |
| Adam Varney | 2 |
| Pablo Gabriel Villa | 3 |
| James Kavallines | 10 |
| Mary Dugal | 10 |
| Cooper Beau Mihaly | 11 |
| Eric Evans | 13 |
| Jesse Carrier & Mara Miller - Anniversary | 13 |
| Jack Carrier | 15 |
| Violet Palmer-Kavallines | 16 |
| Peggy Scalzo | 18 |
| Nicholas Huott | 18 |
| Aidan Davids | 18 |
| Kate Kerpchar | 27 |
| Connie Somoskovec | 30 |

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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. 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 strict fast on Christmas Eve.

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 are 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