

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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www.holytrinitydanbury.org

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

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4. The Gospel is from Matthew 22:1-14. St. Eumenes of Gortyna.

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, September 18, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 18, 10 AM to 4 PM - Parish Picnic at St. Johns, 1240 Broadbridge Ave. Stratford.

Monday, September 19, 7 PM – Spirituality Class

Tuesday, September 20, 8:30 AM – Akathist

Tuesday, September 20, 9:15 AM – Perogie Session

Wednesday, September 21, 7 PM – Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, September 22, 9 AM – New Testament Class

Friday, September 23, 9 AM – Old Testament Class

Saturday, September 24, 8 AM – Roll Baking

Saturday, September 21, 5 PM-Vespers

Sunday, September 25, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

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/htoccdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

Annual Lenox Retreat—We are making plans for our St. Nectarios Retreat in Lenox, MA which will take place Nov. 4th-Nov. 6th. We will be staying at the same inn as last year now called The Whitlock (formerly Church Street Inn). Room reservations will be made directly with the inn as we did last year. Please reserve by Oct. 4th. Reservations made after Oct 4th will not receive our discounted group rate. The retreat master will be Fr. Bogdan Bucur, Associate Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary. This is always a very enjoyable weekend and we look forward to sharing it with parishioners and guests from outside the parish. See the attached letter for more details including room rates and reservations instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Sulich (ssulich@yahoo.com).

PLEASE NOTE: Day Guests who wish to attend the retreat presentation only are welcome. Retreat fee is \$50.

Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve will be **Friday, October 14th from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Community service hours available for high school students. If you are unable to serve but would like to help feed the hungry in our community another option is to prepare a meal for us to serve. We use 3 large silver trays for each meal. See Susan Sulich to volunteer.

| Cards for Marilyn and Bob

Cards for Marilyn and Bob—Marilyn Zaengle and Bob Popp are both at Bethel Health Care and would very much enjoy hearing from parishioners. The address for the center is: Bethel Health Care, 13 Parklawn Dr., Bethel, CT 06801. Marilyn's room number is 121D and Bob's room number is 227W

| Trinity Troubadours Return

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Trinity Troubadours and our Orthodox Youth Mission Team. It was a night of fun and fellowship along with some great food and karaoke. Thank you, Harry and Paul to cooking and serving some fine food!

Adult Education Opportunities

We have several adult education classes going on currently that are currently online:

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

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, **Symeon the New Theologian – The Discourses.**

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

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

All classes will take place in the church hall. We will also make them available via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. (live, same credentials).

Church Store—we have many new items in our Church Store. Check out our selection of books for summer reading, beautiful icons, jewelry, and religious items. We have many children's offerings and items perfect for gift giving. Your purchase also benefits the parish. If there are any items you would like to see in our store, please let Lisa Farrah or Sarah Mannello know.

Processional Cross and Fans – The parish council has moved to go ahead with the purchase of new hand carved wooden processional Cross and Fans. The cost is \$4000.00 and we are looking for donations to help offset the cost. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the cross, please note processional cross in the memo line of your check.

Monthly Bake Sale—Our next monthly bake sale will be Thursday, Oct 6th from 4-6 p.m. If you are able to help out, please see Helen Galskoy. This will be our last monthly sale for the year as we have our Thanksgiving and Christmas Bake sales coming up in Nov and Dec.

Parish Vegetable Garden

Parish Vegetable Garden—You may have noticed by the Cross at the top of the driveway a vegetable garden is developing! OYMT helped start the construction of a fence and parishioners have planted some vegetables in the beds. God willing, the garden will provide fresh produce for the parish to share. Everyone is invited to participate planting, weeding and watering the garden whenever you have a little time. There is also more work to be done on the fence to keep the animals from eating our harvest. The children will also be doing some garden projects. It's a great addition for our parish family!

| Last Call for Trek for Orthodox Christian Mission Center

OCMC Trek for Missions 2022 - OCMC Trek for Missions ends Sunday, Sept. 18th. Thank you to all from St. Alexis and Holy Trinity who have already donated to the St. Alexis/Holy Trinity CT Trek Team. We are more than halfway to our goal of \$5,000! If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation today to our [St. Alexis/Holy Trinity CT Trek Team](#). Remember every dollar you give equals two as all donations will be matched up to \$5,000.

OCMC seeks to minister to the whole person. Some ways that they are bringing the light of Christ to the ends of the earth include:

- Planting and supporting mission parishes around the globe
- Supporting mission priests
- Building seminaries and training up people to serve the Church in their own country
- Providing clean water and other humanitarian aid
- Bringing healthcare clinics and initiatives to areas of great need
- Teaching youth ministries and addressing the spiritual and physical needs of children

Upcoming Events

Roll Baking—Saturday, Sept. 24th

OYMT Thank You Coffee Hour—Sunday Oct 2nd following liturgy

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

Dorothy Day—Friday, Oct. 14th 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Sobor—Sunday, Oct. 16th – Wednesday, Oct. 19th

Roll Baking—Saturday, Oct 22nd

Annual Parish Lenox Retreat – Friday, November 4 – Sunday, November 6

Thanksgiving Bake Sale—Saturday, Nov. 19th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Bake Sale—Saturday, Dec. 10th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Book Review

Oct 2nd Big in Heaven by Father Stephen N Siniari

Follow Father Naum, an Orthodox priest of an inner-city immigrant parish, daily. A collection of short stories with each story about different parishioners. Sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking. A great read that Orthodox Christians can relate to!

Available to order from our Church Store \$18.00

| Perogie Sessions Starting Up

Perogie Sessions Starting Up—It's time to make the perogies! We will begin sessions again on Tuesday, September 6th at about 9:15 a.m. following our Akathist service at 8:30 a.m. New perogie makers welcome!

| OYMT Thank You Coffee Hour

OYMT Thank You Coffee Hour Oct 2nd—The Orthodox Youth Mission Team is looking forward to sharing our experiences from our summer youth mission trip to West Virginia through the Appalachian Service Project. We will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday, Oct 2nd and preparing some delicious dishes for you to enjoy to express our gratitude to all of our supporters. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend!

Birthdays

September	
Peggy & Frank Scalzo - Anniversary	18
Josue Salcedo	18
Orestes & Monika Mihaly - Anniversary	21
Nicholas Scalzo	21
Bethany Mihaly	22
Julia Huott	23
Paul Sulich, Sr.	26
Lorraine Fedyna	28
Alex & Elaine Sirak - Anniversary	28
Jeff & Kristen Szymanowicz - Anniversary	29
Jim & Pat Zeleniak - Anniversary	29

Father Eumenios Saridakis: The story of the leper who was proclaimed a saint

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



Help Re-Stock Our Kitchen—We are in need of kitchen size garbage bags, 30-gallon black trash bags and decaf coffee.

Fr. Luke is looking to put together and overnight **Men's Retreat** Friday, October 28th to Saturday, October 29th. If you are interested, please let Fr. Luke know.

Elder Eumenios (in the world, Constantine Saridakis) was born January 1, 1931, in the Cretan village of Efia, to the family of the pious George and Sofia Saridakis. He was the eighth and last child in this poor family, which lost its breadwinner early. The difficult years of Nazi occupation in Greece did not allow little Constantine to receive an elementary education. Nevertheless, the boy stood out not only for his intelligence but also for his special piety. A wondrous event had a decisive influence on the future elder's choice of path in life. It happened in 1944. During a festive dinner an extraordinary, blinding radiance appeared, which, as Fr. Eumenios later related, penetrated deep into his soul. Amazed and shaken by the divine light, the youth cried out, "I will become a monk!" Constantine's path in life was foreordained. As the elder himself said, "If a person has a calling from God for something good, then God works and helps him."

In 1951, Constantine Saradakis entered the monastery of Prophet Elias not far from his village. In that monastery, besides the abbot there labored two elderly, blind monks, whom the young novice served with great love. Three years later Constantine received the monastic tonsure with the name Sophronios.

In 1954, Monk Sophronios was recruited into the army, as was mandatory according to Greek laws of the time. Just as in the monastery, in the army the young monk did not disdain to do any kind of work, showing respect and obedience to his superiors, but at the same time trying to fulfill his monastic duties as well. But in the army Fr. Sophronius was hit by a great temptation, accompanied by demonic attacks—he got a fever that would not go down despite all the doctors' efforts. The drafted monk was transferred to Thessalonica in serious condition, and there they found the terrible cause of this strange illness: leprosy! Thanking the Lord for this heavy cross, the sick monk was taken to the Athens leprosy hospital, where fortunately the treatment was successful and he completely recovered. But having tasted the bitter taste of that terrible illness, he decided to remain in the leper colony and serve the suffering. And there were over 500 of them in that hospital! The hospital administration gave the monk a small hut near the hospital church dedicated to Sts. Cosmos and Damian. It was here that the elder spent the rest of his life. The monk spent his days in the leper colony in spiritual ascetic labors, in care for the bed-ridden lepers, and in church services.

It was a great blessing for Fr. Sophrony to meet St. Nicephoros the Leper, who was infected with leprosy while still very young and lived for forty-three years in the leper colony on Chios. In 1957, St. Nicephoros, by then blind and nearly paralyzed, was transferred to the Athens leprosy hospital. Until his repose in 1964, St. Nicephoros was Fr. Sophrony's spiritual guide, and the latter took care of the saint with great love until the end of the saint's days.

In 1975, the forty-four-year-old monk was ordained a priest with the name Eumenios and became the father confessor to the leprosy hospital, which became a hospital for acute infections.

Having lived more than a half century in his humble hovel in the hospital yard, the elder ceaselessly served God and people—hearing confessions, serving at the holy altar, consoling, giving advice in complicated situations, working miracles and healing both spiritual and physical illnesses. Despite the serious illnesses that he also suffered, a smile never left the elder's face, and boundless love for God and all people shone in his eyes. According to eye-witnesses, clairvoyance, working miracles, and seeing the saints were all ordinary business and par for the course for Fr. Eumenios. Generously endowed with grace-filled gifts of the Holy Spirit, the elder "hid himself" successfully behind the walls of the hospital. [St. Porphyrios of Kapsokalyvia](#), who sometimes went to Fr. Eumenios for confession, called him a "hidden saint of our days."

After the fall of the communist regime in the USSR, Fr. Eumenios and his spiritual son, now Bishop Neophytos of Morphou (Cypriot Orthodox Church), made a pilgrimage trip to Kiev, Moscow, and St. Petersburg, where with great reverence he venerated the holy tomb of Holy Righteous [John of Kronstadt](#). After returning to Athens, the elder's health problems worsened: diabetes, weak vision, kidney problems and problems with his legs, which the doctors proposed to amputate. Battling against death over the next few years, the elder never interrupted his pastoral service of receiving a never-ending stream of people. In 1992, for his service to the Church, Fr. Eumenios was awarded the rank of archimandrite. In 1999 the elder was hospitalized in the "Evangelismos" hospital in Athens, where on May 23 he gave his soul into the hand of God. The blessed elder's body was buried in his native village of Efia. In our days, at the prayers and intercession of the blessed elder Eumenios, the Lord works a multitude of miracles of healings and spiritual consolation for the sick and suffering.