

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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

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

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Camp Nazareth:

<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

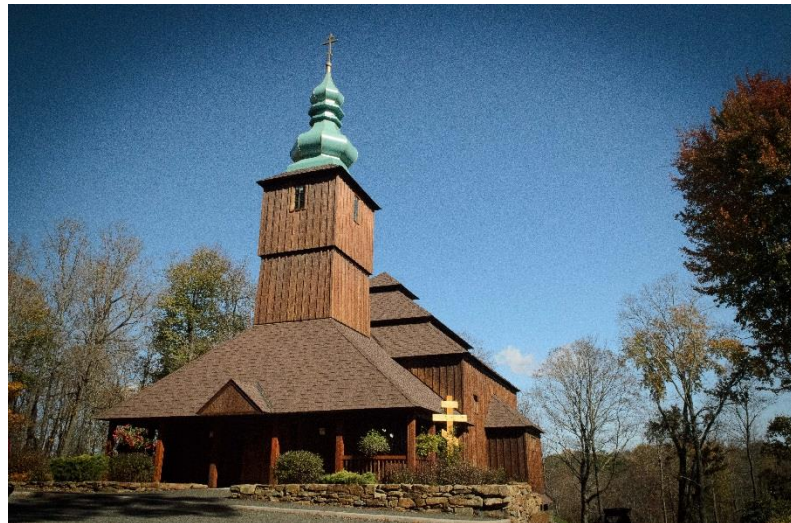
## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

The Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord. The Epistle is from Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. The Gospel is from Matthew 1:1-25. Martyr Sebastian.

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, December 18, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 18, 11:30 AM**  
– Panachida for Sulich and Kuziak Family

**Sunday, December 18, 12 noon**  
– Parish Council Meeting

**Sunday, December 18, 1 PM to 2 PM**  
– Family Church School Meeting

**Monday, December 19, 7 PM**  
– Spirituality Class

**Tuesday, December 20, 9 AM**  
– Akathist

**Wednesday, December 21, 6 PM**  
– Unction Service

**Friday, December 23, 9 AM**  
– Royal Hours

**Saturday, December 24, 5 PM**  
– Holy Supper – Strict Fast Pot-luck

**Saturday, December 24, 7 PM**  
– Compline

**Sunday, December 25, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy – Nativity our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Fast Free until Thursday, January 5

**Monday, December 26, 9 AM**  
– Liturgy Synaxis of the Mother of God

**December 27, 9 AM**  
– Akathist of the Nativity

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

**Church School**—At our last church school session families put together jars of “Friendship Soup Mix” which we plan to sell at our upcoming Thanksgiving on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the soup sales will be used to buy food to make and serve at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen here in Danbury. We are looking for volunteers from the church school to sell the soup at the sale. Sale hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let Nick Fong, Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich know if you are available to be at the sale for an hour or two to sell the soup mixes. Upcoming family church school events:

- Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> following coffee hour: We will meet to discuss what to purchase and make for Dorothy Day Soup kitchen and there will be a brief discussion on the Nativity of our Lord.
- Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> We will meet at the church hall to prepare the food for the soup kitchen and then go over and serve from 1:30 to 4:30.

## 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

## | Dorothy Day

**Date Change for December Dorothy Day** – NOTE: we will not be serving on our usual Friday in December. Instead, we will be at Dorothy Day on Wednesday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> with our church school children and families to serve the meal. Dorothy Day also recently held their annual meeting. Attached is the report which gives an overview of soup kitchen and other services currently being offered to aid the homeless of our community.

## | Parish Family Fun Night

**Parish Fun Night**—All are invited to come to a parish get together on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> in the church hall. Join in for games and/or movie night and potluck dinner at 6 p.m.

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## 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.

**New Year’s Dinner Dance**—The date has been set for Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> for our New Year’s Dinner Dance. We will have a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing to the music of our favorite DJ, Bill Lopez. Tickets are \$40 per person—BYOB. See attached flyer. Make reservations for individuals or for a table of 8 by contacting Pani Bethany (text to 203-482-6224) or Susan Sulich ([ssulich@yahoo.com](mailto:ssulich@yahoo.com)).

**Church School Next Sunday**—The next session of our family church school will take place next Sunday after coffee hour. Fr. Luke will be talking to the youth of the parish about the Nativity of Our Lord and we will finalize plans for serving at the Dorothy Day soup kitchen on Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Orthodox Mission Team

**Join the Orthodox Youth Mission Team**—We are currently recruiting new team members for our 2023 youth mission trip to Appalachia. The trip will take place from Sat. July 8 – Sunday, July 16, 2023. Teens who will be finished with 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the summer are eligible to attend. The cost for youth to attend is \$350. Deadline to sign up with a 50% deposit is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet once a month for training sessions beginning in December. If you have questions or are a high school or college student or an adult who is interested in being a leader, please see Susan Sulich or Fr. Luke.

## Christmas Bake Sales

**Still Some Bake Sale Goodies Left**—We have a limited number of Poppy Seed, Raspberry and Prune rolls still available for sale as well as Russian Tea Cookies, perogies and a very few packages of stuffed cabbage. See Susan Sulich at coffee hour if you would like any of these items.

## Clothing Drive

**Clothing Drive a Big Success**—The numbers are in and our clothing drive's most recent collection brought in \$671.50. A huge thank you to Ann Huott and her family for collecting and storing the clothes and for coordinating this profitable fundraiser for our parish.

## Upcoming Events

**Family Church School**—Sunday  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

**Royal Hours** - Friday, December 23, 9 AM

**Holy Supper (covered dish) - Strict Fast** - Saturday, December 24, 5PM

**Christmas Eve Services and the singing of Christmas Carols** - Saturday, December 24, 7 PM

**St. Basil's Divine Liturgy – Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** - Sunday, December 25, 10 AM –

**Divine Liturgy - Synaxis of the Mother of God** - Monday, December 26, 9 AM

**Akathist Nativity of Our Lord** - Tuesday, December 27, 9 AM

**Dorothy Day with Church School Families**—Wednesday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 12:00-4:30 p.m.

**Family Fun Night**—Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Sat. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training #1**—Sunday,

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 3-5 p.m. at Holy Trinity

## Birthdays

December	
Willi Jacob Gartner	16
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
John Cole Mihaly	27
Ralph & Donna Loomis	28
Tyler John Somoskovec	29
Elaine Toaso	30
Michael Scalzo	31

**Hold on Toys**—Thank you to all who have donated toys for our toddlers to enjoy. We are full up at this point and can't accept any more donations!

**Toffee Treats for Sale**—Members of OYMT will be selling a limited number of Toffee Treats during coffee hour. Toffee Treats are \$5 a bag and proceeds go toward our mission trip to Appalachia in summer of 2023.

**Christmas Decorations**—Many thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield for preparing our church for Christmas with all their beautiful decorating! Please refrain from watering the poinsettias as they wilt easily if overwatered.

**Help Re-stock our Kitchen**—we are in need of decaf coffee and soup bowls.

## Christmas Card

**Christmas Card**—It's time to prepare our annual Christmas card. Lisa Farrah will have a list of all the names from last year. Please update your listing or add yourself or your family if you are new to the parish.

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
74 Joes Hill Rd  
Danbury, CT 06811

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



During the first three centuries, in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus, the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the Feast of His Baptism on January 6, and called "Theophany" ("Manifestation of God"). This was because of a belief that Christ was baptized on anniversary of His birth, which may be inferred from Saint John Chrysostom's sermon on the Nativity of Christ: "it is not the day on which Christ was born which is called Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized."

In support of such a view, it is possible to cite the words of the Evangelist Luke who says that "Jesus began to be about thirty years of age" (Luke 3:23) when He was baptized. The joint celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Theophany continued to the end of the fourth century in certain Eastern Churches, and until the fifth or sixth century in others.

The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feastdays and the feastdays themselves is the same.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid." (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." In another place it also says, "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century Saint Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of Saint Matthew.

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

Saint John Chrysostom, in a sermon which he gave in the year 385, points out that the Feast of the Nativity of Christ is ancient, and indeed very ancient. In this same century, at the Cave of Bethlehem, made famous by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the empress Saint Helen built a church, which her mighty son Constantine adorned after her death

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful and wondrous events in the history of the world.

Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts.

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*