

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>

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 Nativity of our Lord. The Epistle is from Galatians 4:4-7. The Gospel is from Matthew 2:1-12.

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

**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**

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

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

**Wednesday, December 28,
1 PM to 4:30 PM** – Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Friday, December 30, 6 PM to 9 PM – Parish Family Fun Night – Potluck – Movie and Games

Saturday, December 31, 5 PM – Vespers

Sunday, January 1, 10 AM
– **Divine Liturgy** – Feasts of St. Basil – Circumcision of Our Lord

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.

Church School—At our church school session families put together jars of “Friendship Soup Mix” which we sold at our upcoming Thanksgiving on Nov. 19th. 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. Please let Nick Fong, Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich know if you are available to be at Dorothy Day to help serve the needy.

- Wednesday, December 28th 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. 28th 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 30th in the church hall. Join in for games and/or movie night and potluck dinner at 6 p.m.

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 14th 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).

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 8th 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. 15th. 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

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. 28th 12:00-4:30 p.m.

Family Fun Night—Friday, Dec. 30th 6 p.m.

New Year's Dinner Dance— Sat. Jan. 14th

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training #1—Sunday, Jan. 22nd 3-5 p.m. at Holy Trinity

Birthdays – If you have dates of Birthdays or Anniversaries that you would like to add, please let Fr. Luke know so he can include them.

December	
John Cole Mihaly	27
Ralph & Donna Loomis	28
Tyler John Somoskovec	29
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	13
Nicholas Huott	18
Aidan Davids	18
Willi & Cheryl Gartner	21
Ralph Loomis	21
Connie Somoskovec	30

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.

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar

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



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 names of the three Wise Men (Magi) do not appear in the Gospels. The tradition that there were three visitors from the east is very ancient, but their names are only mentioned in the Middle Ages.

Bones reputed to be the relics of the three kings have been in the cathedral at Cologne, Germany since 1164.

Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord



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.