

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>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

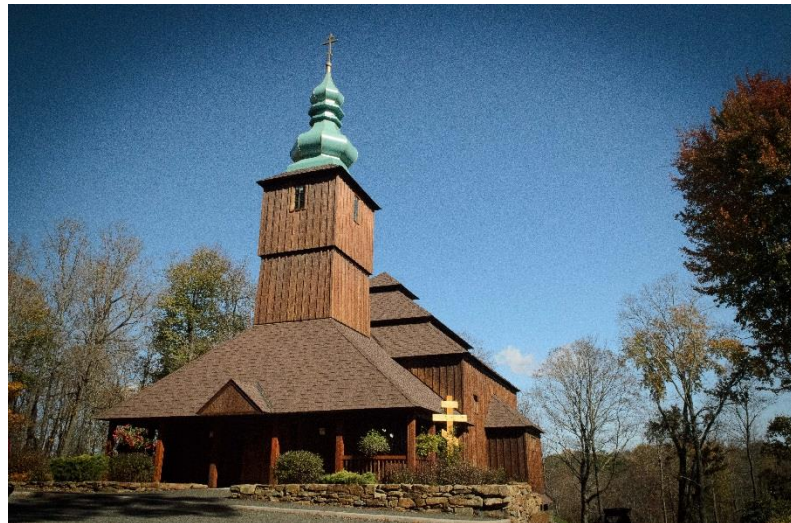
Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross. The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Galatians 6:11-18. The Gospel is from Matthew 22:1-14., John 3:13-17. Martyr Menodora, et al.

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 10, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 10, 2 PM – OYMT leader meeting

Monday, September 11, 7 PM – Spirituality Class

Tuesday, September 12, 8:30 AM – Akathist

Tuesday, September 12, 9:15 AM – Perogie Session

Wednesday, September 13, 6 PM – Vespers for Cross Elevation

Wednesday, September 13, 7 PM – Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, September 14, 9 AM – Liturgy - Cross Elevation – Strict Fast

Friday, September 15, 9 AM – Old Testament Class

Saturday, September 16, 11 AM – Church School – All ages

Saturday, September 16, 5 PM – Vespers

Sunday, September 17, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 17, 2 PM – St. John's Picnic Stratford

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site www.holytrinitydanbury.org

And to those with a Facebook account please like our Facebook page posts associated with the fundraising events here <https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

Help Re-Stock Our Kitchen: We need paper towels and decaf coffee. Thank you!

Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve at Dorothy Day is Friday, October 13th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. We have seen a significant increase in the number of people the soup kitchen is serving. There are two ways to help, by serving at the soup kitchen--no experience needed—or by preparing large casseroles that we can use to feed the guests. If you've been thinking about getting involved in this ministry, now is a great time! You can serve for all or part of the afternoon. Service hours available for high school students. See Susan Sulich if you want to volunteer.

| Parish Dinner Out

Parish Dinner Out—We are planning a parish dinner out on Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Greca, a wonderful Greek/Mediterranean restaurant located at 1 Kent Rd. in New Milford, CT. They have offered us an excellent menu with a variety of appetizers served family style, a choice of 3 entrees, dessert and coffee. (See attached menu.) Cost is \$50 per person which includes tips. Please RSVP to Susan Sulich with your entrée selection by Friday, Sept. 15th.

Adult Education Opportunities

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

Spirituality Class – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. This week we are starting a new book: *For The Life of The World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

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 by Metropolitan Emiliano entitled: *Priest, Parish and Renewal*. **New Testament** – Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

currently we are reading and studying *St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians*

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.

Time to Make Perogies—We will start our weekly perogie making sessions on Tuesday, Sept. 5th following our Akathist Service, about 9:00 a.m. New helpers are always welcome! No experience necessary.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour—Our coffee hour is a great opportunity to spend time together and share a meal. If there's an item or dish, you'd like to bring sign up on the sheet downstairs. No one needs to do the whole coffee hour! All offerings are welcome.

OYMT Presentation and Thank You

OYMT Thank You Coffee Hour and Presentation—Next Sunday, Sept. 3rd the Danbury members of the Orthodox Youth Mission Team will host coffee hour and give a special presentation about our experiences in West Virginia this summer. We want to express our gratitude to all our parish for their prayers and generous support of the team. We are looking forward to sharing our trip with all of you! We will also offer an opportunity following the presentation for anyone (teens 8th grade and up and adults) who might be interested in joining our team for next year to learn more about the mission team and what's involved for participants. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Support Fr. Juvenal

Guatemala Missionary – Fr. Juvenal Repass, OCMC missionary from Guatemala will who visited our parish last week, is going to be going to serve in Brazil. Anyone who would like to support his work can make donations directly to OCMC for Fr. Juvenal Repass. You may find his link to OCMC here and click on the support tab:

<https://secure.ocmc.org/site/SPageNavigator/Missionaries/Arc%20himandrite%20Juvenal%20Repass/RepassMissionary.html>

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.

September	
Suad Behrend	10
Valentina Bayer	14
Steven & Vera Shelley - Anniversary	14
Miles Silvera	14
Natalie Carrier	14
Peggy & Frank Scalzo - Anniversary	18
Josue Salcedo	18
Orestes & Monika Mihaly - Anniversary	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

Upcoming Events

Parish Dinner Out—Tuesday, Sept. 19th 6:30 p.m. at Greca Restaurant in New Milford.

Holy Land Pilgrimage—Sun. Oct. 15th-Sat. Oct 28th

Lenox Retreat - November 10 thru November 12

Parish Garden—Our parish garden is growing strong! Many thanks to all who have planted. We have tomatoes, squash, beans, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, pumpkins, peppers, watermelons, beans, radishes and some mystery veggies as well as herbs growing. There is still some space if anyone would like to plant anything else. Anyone is welcome to come and weed or water the garden. We look forward to sharing the harvest with everyone as God provides.

Lenox Retreat—Our annual St. Nectarios Lenox Retreat is set for Fri., Nov. 10th – Sun., Nov. 12th. We will be staying at The Constance—a sister property to The Whitlock where we were last year. Reservations for the weekend will be made directly with the inn (see attached flyer and letter with reservation info). There is also an option to just attend the retreat for the day on Saturday. Retreat master is **Fr. Noah Bushelli** and his topic is entitled: **Passing Through: Our Pilgrimage to Paradise.** Any

questions please see Susan Sulich. Deadline to reserve is Oct. 10th.



The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Commemorated on [September 14](#)

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
74 Joes Hill Rd
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"... a place of refuge full of love and joy."



Holy Land Pilgrimage—

We are putting together a group to go on a trip the Holy Land this year. The trip will take place from Oct. 16-28th and will be led by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky who we have worked with before and has an excellent reputation and much experience with this pilgrimage.

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church; she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khosrôēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khosrôēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.