



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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. The Gospel is from Luke 5:1-11. Protomartyr Thecla, Equal to the Apostles.

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 24,
10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 24,
12:30 PM – Parish Council Meeting

Monday, September 25,
7 PM – Spirituality Class

Tuesday, September 26,
8:30 AM – Akathist

Tuesday, September 26,
9 AM – Perogie Session

Wednesday, September 27,
7 PM – Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, September 28,
9 AM – New Testament

Friday, September 29,
9:30 AM – Old Testament Class

Saturday, September 30,
3 PM – Vespers

Sunday, October 1, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy – Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God

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!

Monthly Bake Sale—Our last monthly bake sale before Thanksgiving is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5th from 4-6 p.m. If you would like to help at the sale, please contact Helen Galskoy.

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.

| OYMT For A Day

OYMT For A Day—Ever wondered what it's like to be on the Orthodox Youth Mission Team? Here's your chance to find out. On Sunday, Nov. 5th from 1-6 p.m. we will offer OYMT For A Day. Join veteran team members to do some work on the home of a parishioner and experience of some of the best aspects of our trip. This workday is open to all middle and high school students. For more information or to sign up, see Susan Sulich.

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 Tuesdays, 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 Recruiting

OYMT Recruiting for Next Year's Mission Team—We are currently recruiting new team members for our mission trip next summer. Youth ages 13 and up and adults who are interested in being leaders or assisting the team in other ways please let Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich know. We will be happy to share more in-depth information about the mission efforts and answer any questions you may have. We are looking to finalize our team by the end of November. More details about dates and location of next year's trip coming soon.

Roll Baking Days

Roll Baking Days—In preparation for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Bake Sales we have two days scheduled for roll baking at the church: Sat. Sept. 23rd and Sat. Nov. 4th. If you are interested in helping with the rolls, please contact Carolyn for the schedule.

Birthdays or Anniversaries

September	
Julia Huott	23
Ivan McKenzie	25
Paul Sulich, Sr.	26
Lorraine Fedyna	28
Alex & Elaine Sirak - Anniversary	28
Jeff & Kristen Szymanowicz - Anniversary	29
Jim & Pat Zeleniak - Anniversary	29
October	
Madeline Sulich	1
Jake Morfa	1
Sophia Shelley	2
Viorel & Vida Bundra	4
Hannah Kachevsky	4
Camila (Pila)	7
Patricia Zeleniak	8
Veronica Pila	8
Wylie & Pauline Meath - Anniversary	9
Francisco Soto	12
Fr. Nicholas & Stacey Mihaly - Anniversary	13
Reader Rob Paltauf	14
Charles Hull	17
Jill Kerpchar-Rosenfield	17
Roger Behrend	18
Diana Borsari	18
Virginia Krista Hull	18
Anna Dugal	20
Rosario Villa	21
Annalisa Paltauf	22
William Obrevko	23
Gabriel Shelley	23
Cheryl Krafick Gartner	24

Upcoming Events

Monthly Bake Sale—Thurs. Oct. 5th 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Lenox Retreat - November 10 thru November 12

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

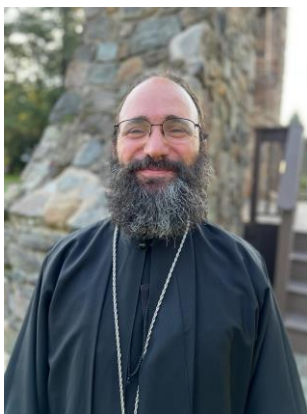
Thanksgiving Bake Sale - Sat. Nov. 18th 10 am to 3pm

Roll Baking—Sat. Nov. 4th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Bale Sale - Sat. Dec. 9th 10 am to 3 pm

OYMT For a Day—Sun. Nov. 5th 1:00-6:00 p.m.

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.



October Continued

James Rush	24
William & Ann Marie Huott - Anniversary	26
Jon Gross	29
Christian Reznic	29
Orestes Mihaly III	30

Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thekla

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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 Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thekla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At eighteen years of age they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But after she heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, Saint Thekla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel.

Saint Thekla's mother was opposed to her daughter's plans and insisted that she marry her betrothed. Saint Thekla's fiancé also complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. The prefect locked up Saint Paul in prison.

During the night Saint Thekla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, giving them all her gold ornaments, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. Thekla's disappearance was discovered, and servants were sent out everywhere looking for her. Finally, they found her in the prison and brought her home by force.

At his trial Saint Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. Again they urged Saint Thekla to consent to the marriage, but she would not change her mind. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the prefect could separate Saint Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Her mother in a insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and Saint Thekla was sentenced to be burned. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, blessing her present deed, and inexpressible joy filled her holy soul.

The flames of the fire shot up high, but the martyr was surrounded by a light and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and a strong downpour of rain and hail extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear. Saint Thekla, kept safe by the Lord, left the city and with the help of a certain Christian youth, searched for the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions, among whom was Saint Barnabas, were hidden in a cave not far from the city, praying fervently, that the Lord would strengthen Saint Thekla in her sufferings.

After this, Saint Thekla went with them preaching the Gospel in Antioch. In this city she was pursued by a certain dignitary named Alexander, who was captivated by her beauty. Saint Thekla refused his offer of marriage, and so she was condemned to death for being a Christian. Twice they set loose hungry wild animals upon her, but they would not touch the holy virgin. Instead, they lay down meekly and licked her feet.

The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through all her torments. Finally, they tied her to two oxen and began to chase her with red-hot rods, but the strong cords broke asunder like cobwebs, and the oxen ran off, leaving Saint Thekla unharmed. The people began shouting, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The prefect himself became terrified, realizing that the holy martyr was being kept safe by the Almighty God, Whom she served. He then gave orders to set free the servant of God Thekla.

With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Saint Thekla then settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Saint Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as "Equal-to-the-Apostles." Even a pagan priest, trying to assault her purity and punished for his impudence, was brought by her to holy Baptism. More than once the Enemy of the race of man tried to destroy Saint Thekla through people blinded by sin, but the power of God always preserved this faithful servant of Christ.

When Saint Thekla was already a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis was her special helper. Envious of Saint Thekla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, Saint Thekla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. Thus did Saint Thekla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

The holy Church glorifies the Protomartyr Thekla as "the glory of women and guide for the suffering, opening up the way through every torment." From of old many churches were dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal of the Apostles Constantine (May 21). The Protomartyr Thekla, a prayerful intercessor for ascetics, is also invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.