

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



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

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

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://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 Twenty-third  
Sunday after Pentecost.  
The Epistle is from  
Ephesians 2:4-10. The  
Gospel is from Luke 10:25-  
37. Prophet Obadiah.

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, November 12, 10 AM** – Reader Service in Danbury led by Subdeacon Joel Pleban

**Wednesday, November 15 – Beginning of the Nativity Fast**

**Thursday, November 16, 9 AM** – Cookie Baking Session

**Friday, November 17, 9 AM** – Old Testament class

**Friday, November 17, 10:30 AM** – Set up for the Thanksgiving Bake Sale

**Saturday, November 18, 10 AM to 3 PM** – Thanksgiving Bake Sale

**Saturday, November 18, 5 PM** - Vespers

**Sunday, November 19, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, November 19, 11:45 AM** – Coffee with Gavina and the Guys

**Sunday, November 19, 11:30 AM** – Vida's Talk on Financial literacy

**Sunday, November 19, 11:45 AM** – Secret Santa Name drawing

**Sunday, November 19, 12:30 PM** – Parish Council Meeting

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 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 are currently in need of disinfecting wipes for counters, decaf coffee, large paper plates and paper towels.

### Holiday Bake Sales—

Our holiday bake sales will be here before we know it. The Thanksgiving sale will take place on Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas sale will be on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Order forms went out this week and are attached here in case you or someone you know needs one. In the upcoming weeks we will be finishing up our perogies, rolls and stuffed cabbage making and there will also be cookie baking and kielbasa making. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated! We will also need help on the days of the sales so please save some space on your calendar if you're able.

**Calling All Crafters:** We will be offering tables to artisan crafters for our upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Bake sales. If you or someone you know makes handmade items and would like a space, please let Susan Sulich know. The tables are \$35. Both sales are one day but crafters are welcome to sell during the coffee hours on the days following the bakes sales as well.

### Dorothy Day

**Dorothy Day—**Our next date to serve at Dorothy Day is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Christmas Cards from the Church Store

#### Get Your Christmas Cards from the Church Store—

we have a large selection of beautiful Christmas cards available to purchase through our church store. See all designs on display. These cards are from Ancient Faith. You can benefit the church and get a bargain for yourself. Cards can be ordered from Lisa Farrah. You pay same price as I the catalog but no tax or shipping and the church benefits from your purchase! Order soon for best selection.

### 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 Emilianio entitled: *Priest, Parish and Renewal*. **New Testament –** Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

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

**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.

**Perogie Sessions—**We have finished our perogie sessions for the Thanksgiving sale. Many thanks to all who helped. We will assess our needs after the sale on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. If necessary we will schedule some sessions before the December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas sale.

**Soup to Share—**Soup season is here! If you are making soup and you have some extra to spare consider putting it in a freezer container for "Soup to Share." We will keep these in the freezer in the church hall so that if someone is planning to visit a parishioner and would like to bring a warming meal, they will be available. We also have containers at the church you can use. Please label container with name of soup and main ingredients. Thank you!

## 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 Dates Set for 2024

**OYMT Dates Set for 2024**—We are happy to announce that the dates for next year's summer youth mission trip have been decided. Our trip will take place July 20-28<sup>th</sup> and we will again be working through the Appalachian Service Project. Youth who will be 13 by the time of the trip (in 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year) 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 at the upcoming parent meeting or at another time that's convenient. We are looking to finalize our team by mid to late November.

## Men's Group Meeting

**The Men's Group will be meeting on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.** We will sing the Akathist to St. Nicholas and talk about his life after wards over a light meal. Also, we will discuss some upcoming projects and activities.

## Birthdays or Anniversaries

November	
Michael Dran	12
Tennessee Molineaux	13
Matthias Robert Paltauf	13
Daniel John Huott	13
Andrei Zubek	21
Sandi Fong Astras	23
Robert Young	27
Nicholas Gross	30

## Upcoming Events

**Lenox Retreat** - November 10 thru November 12

**Sign Up for OYMT**—Covenant and \$200 deposit due Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Cookie Baking Day**—Thurs., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

**Bake Sale Set Up**—Fri. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m.

**Thanksgiving Bake Sale** - Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 3pm

**Pick Name for Secret Santa** – Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

**Talk on Finances by Vida** – Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

**Parish Council Meeting** – Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

**OYMT Sip and Shop**—Sat. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 4-8 p.m. at the home of Beth Ryzyk, 5 Honey Hollow Court, Katonah, NY

**Toddlers Class with Leon** – Sunday, November 25

**OYMT Kickoff Get Together**— Sun. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-5 p.m. at St. John's Mill Hill Ave., Bridgeport

**Dorothy Day**—Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**Christmas Bale Sale** - Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 3 pm

**St. Nicholas Brunch** – Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Men's Group Meeting and singing of the Akathist to St. Nicholas** - Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 3 PM

**OYMT Sip and Shop**—After the craziness of Black Friday, come enjoy a luxury shopping experience and do good at the same time! OYMT will once again be hosting Sip and Shop on Saturday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the home of Beth Ryzyk. Come and enjoy festive refreshments while you shop with our exclusive vendors for jewelry, candles, makeup and scents, handcrafted cards, wine and more. A percentage of your purchases proceeds from raffles will go to the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. There will be raffles and fun prizes too. Shopping passes are \$5 and each shopper is entered in a raffle for a fabulous prize (winner need not be present). See attached flyer for more details.

**Lenox Retreat**—Our annual St. Nectarios Lenox Retreat is this weekend Fri., Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – Sun., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying at The Constance—a sister property to The Whitlock where we were last year. Thank you to our Retreat master **Fr. Noah Bushelli** and his wife, Khouria Elizabeth. Many years t you Father and Khouria Boushelli!

**Guidelines for the Nativity Fast**

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



**Cookie Baking Day**—On Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a big cookie making session at the church to complete our Russian Tea Cookies and Kolachi. All are welcome—no experience needed. Many hands will make light work!

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The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. Because it begins the day after the commemoration of the Apostle Philip (Nov. 14th), it is often referred to as the Apostle Philip fast. Although it is as long as Great Lent, it is not as severe. Throughout the entire duration of these forty days there is no accommodation for meat, dairy products and eggs. However, fish is allowed to be consumed every day except Wednesdays and Fridays, from November 15th until December 17th. Fish is also allowed on the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, which falls on November 21st, no matter what day of the week it falls on. From the 18th to the 24th of December, which is Christmas Eve, oil and wine are the only relief from a strict fast, except Wednesdays and Fridays on which we adhere to a strict fast. We should keep a fast of dry foods (xerophagy) also on the first day of the fast on November 15th, as well as on Christmas Eve, unless of course they fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

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- ❖ Do Not Fast:
    - ❖ if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
    - ❖ during serious illness;
    - ❖ without prayer;
    - ❖ without alms-giving;
  - ❖ according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.
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**Fasting from Foods and Passions:** We must always keep in mind that in our Church true fasting is not only about abstaining from certain foods, but also abstaining from the passions and sins. Saint Photios the Great says: "Fasting that is acceptable to God is that which combines the abstention of food with the aversion of chatter, envy, hatred and other sins. The one who fasts from food, but does not temper the passions, is like one who puts a splendid foundation to a house he has built, but allows snakes, scorpions and every poisonous reptile to live within." We thus aim for a spiritual fast during this period, to avoid sin and keep the will of God, being an embodiment of love and forgiveness and mercy, as well as striving to attain even greater virtue. In this way we will better understand and realize the words of Saint Basil the Great: "True fasting is to alienate ourselves from all evil, all sin, all impassioned thoughts, all unclean desires."