

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/>

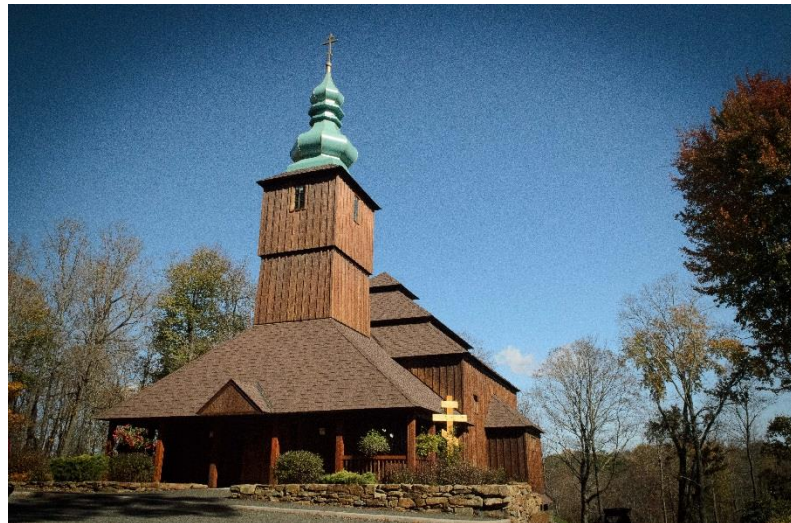
Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is Sunday of the Forefathers. The Epistle is from Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Prophet Daniel and the 3 Holy Youths.

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.

Services/Events	1
Adult Ed	2
Church Store	2
Dorothy Day	2
Soup to Share	2
Parish Christmas Card	2
OYMT Toffee Treats	2
Christmas Open House	2
Coffee Hour	3
OYMT Recruiting	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Upcoming Events	3
New Year's Dance	3
Matching Fund	4
Nativity Fast	4

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, December 17, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 17, 11:15 AM – Panachida for John Derevjaniuk, Ann Huott's father and Michael McGrane, Ken and Diana Borsari's son-in-law.

Sunday, December 17, 12:30 PM – Parish Council meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 6 PM – Unction Service

Friday, December 22, 9 AM – Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23, 5 PM – Vespers

Sunday, December 24, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy - NO Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 24, 3 PM – Parish Holy Supper

Sunday, December 24, 5 PM – Christmas Eve Vigil

Monday, December 25, 10 AM Divine Liturgy Nativity of Jesus Christ

NO FASTING until the Eve of Theophany, January 5

Tuesday, December 26, 9 AM – Divine Liturgy Synaxis of the Mother of God

Friday, Dec. 29, 6 PM. Christmas Open House—All are invited to come to a Christmas Open House on at the home of Paul and Susan Sulich. Please feel free to bring something to share if you wish!

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 Restock Our Kitchen—We are currently in need of paper towels and napkins. Thank you!

OYMT Toffee Treats are Back! Team members will be selling these tasty holiday treats for \$5 a bag from now until Christmas or until sold out! Treats will be available during coffee hour.

Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day—Our next date to serve at Dorothy Day is Friday, February 9th 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.

Christmas Open House

Christmas Open House—All are invited to come to a Christmas Open House on Friday, Dec. 29th starting at 6 p.m. at the home of Paul and Susan Sulich. Please feel free to bring something to share if you wish!

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 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.

Parish Christmas Card— We will once again be sending out a parish Christmas card. If you would like to participate, Ana Melnic will be confirming how parishioners wish to be listed on the card. If possible, we ask for a \$20 donation to cover printing and postage. Please also update your contact information with Ana for our parish directory.

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 20-28th and we will again be working through the Appalachian Service Project. Youth who will be 13 by the time of the trip (in 8th 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.

Upcoming Events

Open House at the Sulich's – Friday, December 29, 6 PM to

New Year's Dinner Dance—Jan. 13, 2024

OYMT Training Session #1— Sunday, Jan. 21st 3-5 p.m. at Holy Trinity Danbury

Duckpin Bowling Youth

Outing – Saturday, February 18th, 2 PM – 4 PM - Devon Duckpin Bowl, 551 Naugatuck Ave, Devon, CT

New Year's Dinner Dance:

Save the Date—We are planning our annual New Year's Dinner Dance for Sat., Jan. 13th. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details to come.

Time to Sign Up for OYMT—We are in the process of finalizing our youth mission team for 2024. OYMT will be going to Appalachia July 20-28th to participate in the Appalachian Service Project to help impoverished families make their homes "warmer, safer and drier." Teens who are in 8th grade this year are eligible to participate, as well as adults who wish to be leaders. To sign up please fill out the covenant found [here](#). A \$200 deposit is required for teens (no volunteer fee for adult leaders) and scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Sulich or Fr. Luke.

Birthdays or Anniversaries

December	
Trianna Gutzman	10
Frank Scalzo	13
Willi Jacob Gartner	16
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
John Cole Mihaly	27
Ralph & Donna Loomis - Anniversary	28
Elaine Toaso	30
Melissa Cooke	30
Michael Scalzo	31
January	
Andres Villa	1
Adam Varney	2
Pablo Gabriel Villa	3
Mary Dugal	10
Cooper Beau Mihaly	11
Eric Evans	13
Jesse Carrier & Mara Miller - Anniversary	13
Jack Carrier	15
Peggy Scalzo	18
Nicholas Huott	18
Aidan Davids	18
Ralph Loomis	21
Connie Somoskovec	30
Samuel Paproski	31

Guidelines for the Nativity Fast

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



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.

Be A Part of Holy Trinity's Matching Fund Campaign

In this season of giving, we at Holy Trinity have received a great blessing! We have the opportunity to raise \$100,000 for our parish thanks to a generous benefactor who has offered to match dollar for dollar the funds we raise up to \$50,000. The funds raised will go into our building fund and allow us to proceed with plans for beautification of our church such as the bell tower, vestibule doors and iconography.

This matching fundraiser will take place from St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6th) through Feb. 6, 2024. Through the grace of God and working together we can multiply the gifts God has given us for the benefit of our church. Below is a pledge form to fill out with the amount you can give if you wish to participate. Remember, no donation is too small—every dollar you give will add two dollars to our fund. See Attached form.

As of 12/9/2023, we already have \$9,000.00 in matching funds for a total of \$18,000.00! Thank you everyone so far who has responded to our campaign!

❖ 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.

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."
