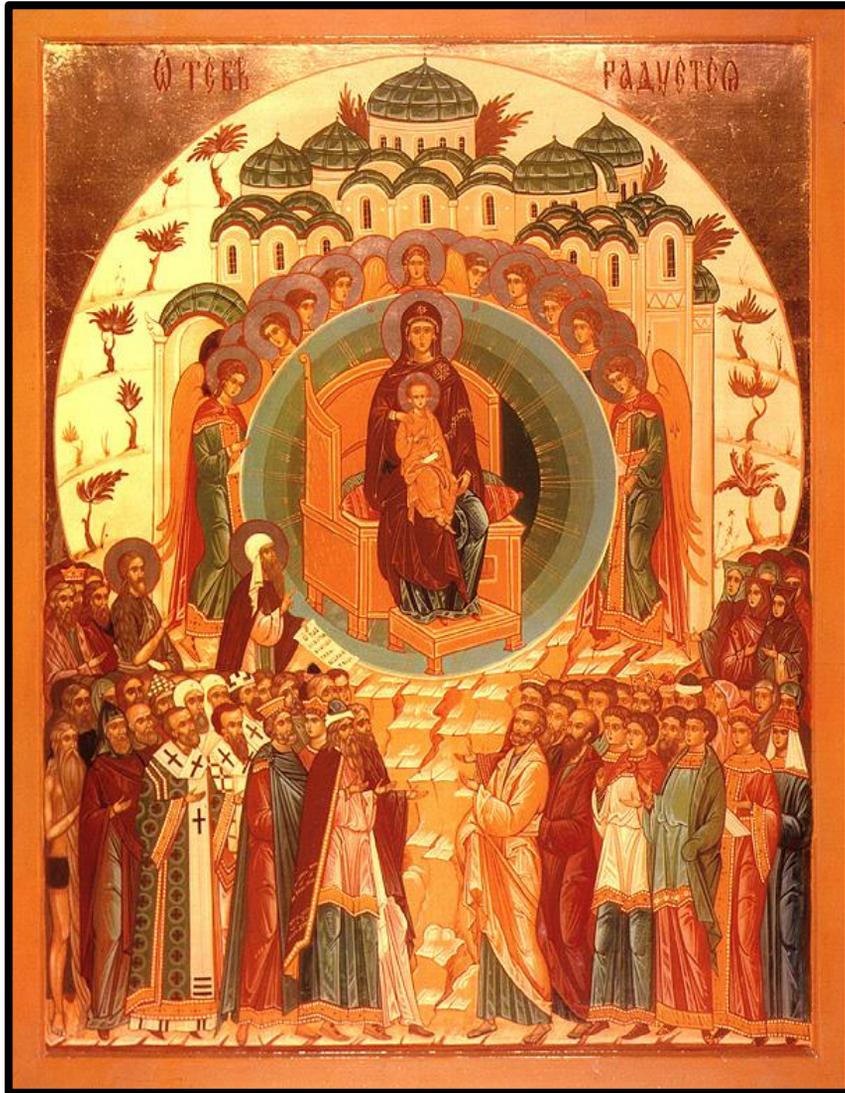


# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

140 Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY • 607-732-3980

Rector: Fr. David Cowan • Deacon S. Michael Karney

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**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 2**

**Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

**The Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos**

**Saints Joseph, David and James**

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

**Most Services May Be Joined by Live Stream at Web Address [www.facebook.com/htocelmiraheights](https://www.facebook.com/htocelmiraheights) or go to [www.YouTube.com](https://www.YouTube.com) and search for "Holy Trinity Church Elmira Heights NY"**

### **Today – Sunday, December 26**

8:40 AM *Third and Sixth Hours*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Fellowship Hour  
After Coffee Hour: Caroling to the Homebound

### **Tuesday, December 28**

6:30 PM *Panikhida* for + Nadia Nadezhda Melnik, on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of her Repose

### **Friday, December 31**

7:00 PM *Great Vespers with Litya*, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord; and St. Basil the Great;  
Followed by New Year's Eve Fellowship Downstairs

### **Saturday, January 1, 2022 – Happy New Year!**

9:40 AM *Third and Sixth Hours*  
10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy* – Circumcision of our Lord; Feast of St. Basil the Great  
3:30 PM Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal  
5:00 PM *Great Vespers*; Private Confession Available Afterward

### **Sunday, January 2**

8:40 AM *Third and Sixth Hours*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Fellowship Hour and Nativity Play, "A Charlie Brown Christmas!"

## **INTRODUCING *THE ENCOUNTER* – A WAY TO DEEPEN YOUR DAILY PRAYER LIFE!**

Have you ever found praying to be difficult? Do you feel too busy to pray? Or perhaps you don't know where to begin? Maybe you have found it hard to focus, or even experienced emptiness when you pray.

If so, you're not alone. For many Orthodox Christians, prayer can be misunderstood, or even frustrating. But prayer is how we build an intimate relationship with the living God! Cultivating that relationship takes time and effort. That's why our parish is partnering with Faithtree Resources in The Encounter, a prayer initiative that will help us grow closer to God, closer to each other, and to grow in our faith.

Made up of daily Orthodox prayers you can use on a free app, or through a physical prayer book, The Encounter is a simple way to begin to grow in your prayer life and do so with others in our community.

If you'd like more information about participating,  
sign up online by clicking [here](#) or by typing the link below into your Web browser:

<https://forms.gle/8vwiFdMNxJ6tRAZe9>

The Encounter is coming in January 2022. Watch for more information in the upcoming weeks.

We hope you will join us!

For more information, contact Reader Samuel Payzant at [spayzant@gmail.com](mailto:spayzant@gmail.com).

## **ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL VISITING OUR PARISH SATURDAY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15-16, 2022**

Please mark your calendars and  
plan to be here! More details will be announced soon.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**EPISTLES Hebrews 2:11-18** Brethren: Both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

**Ephesians 6:10-17** Brethren: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**GOSPELS Matthew 2:13-23** At that time, when Jesus and Joseph and Mary had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Luke 18:18-27** At that time, a certain ruler asked Jesus, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

### Prayer List

**Memory Eternal:** John; Archpriest John Gido, Archpriest Michael Macura, Archpriest Michael Polanichka; Fr. Igor; James; Luka, James, Charlotte; Thomas; Walter; Matushka Anne; Stella Anastasia; Nadia Nadezhda; Antoinette; Tate, Madisyn, Hana, Justin; Yuliana; Elaine, Yuri, Elizabeth. Ever-memorable Shirley Kohena (+12/29/20). All the departed named for Saints David, Joseph, and James. All those taken from us by the Coronavirus, by sickness, violence, injury and disaster.

**For Health:** Fr. Jason Kappanadze, Fr. Nicholas Harris, Fr. Daniel & Mat. Myra Kovalak, Fr. Herman & Mat. Cynthia Schick, Fr. Michael Oleksa; Fr. Moses Berry; Fr. Joseph Chupeck; Rdr. Thomas & Mildred, Reader William & Joshua Haluszczak; Donald (Sue Hults's dad); John; Nancy, Belva; children Brooklyn and Brayden; Presbyteria Maria; child Olivia; recovering Altar Servers Thomas, Jeremiah, and John; recovering Deborah, Larissa & Ezekiel, Dominick Dimitry and their families; Andrew; Natalia; Volker; Horatio, Gabriella; Ann; Christa; Ilsa; Scott & Casey, Steven; Juliana, Antonina; Ryan; James, Child Hannah, Joshua, Chloe, Helen, Kathleen, Erica, Sherri, Mary; Ruth, Harriet, Katherine, Kristin, Sierra, Kate, David.

**Diocesan Prayer Requests:** Archbishop BENJAMIN; Archimandrite Christopher (Calin), Fr. Maryan Chakivsky, Archdeacon Michael Suvak, Fr. John & Matushka Eleanor Pribish; Presbyteria Irene, Edith; Irina, Grace, child Mia, Ray, Caleb, Megan; Stephanie; William, Donna, Matthew, Jack; Walter, Nicole, Rachel, Alexis; Leon; Ethan. All the clergy, faithful and their families of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. All those afflicted with the Coronavirus and those caring for them, those afflicted by sickness, violence, injury, and disaster. **Name Days:** All those named for Saints David, Joseph, and James, whose feast is today. Anysia Lyon (Martyr Anysia of Thessalonica, 12/30); Melania Cheplick (St. Melania of Rome, 12/31); Emilia Karney (St. Emilia, mother of St. Basil the Great, 1/1), Reader William Haluszczak (St. Basil the Great, 1/1). **Birthdays:** Jonah Charlanow (12/27); Veronica Ann (Fr. David's godmother, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday 1/1/22).

#### **Parish Children:**

Lucia	Hannah	Jeremiah	Andrew	Myra	Ezekiel	Anysia
Lydia	Natalie	Emilia	Patrick	Sophia	Dmitri	Jonah
Gabriel	Angelina	John	Thomas	Nikolai	Melania	Alexei
Larissa	Julianna	Nadia	Gabriel	Justus	Samuel	

#### **College Students:** Anna McKane – Duke University •

Katherine McKane – Sarah Lawrence College Year Abroad at Oxford University, England •

Nathan Devens – Elmira College • Larissa Cheplick – Daemen College

Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, Dn. Michael, Subdcn. Walter, or a Reader.

Typically, parish prayer requests remain on this list for 40 days.

### **READERS' SCHEDULE**

Dec. 25th – Dec. 31st: Reader Alexander

Jan. 1st – Jan. 7th:

Reader Samuel

### **FALL/WINTER 2021 FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE**

Contact Mat. Tamara or Mat. Katie if you need a different date.

#### **DECEMBER**

26 Turic & Weeks Families

#### **JANUARY**

2 Christmas Leftovers Potluck

#### **JANUARY (continued)**

9 Charlanow Families

16 Luncheon with Archbishop Michael

23 Gomez & O'Brien Families

30 Cowan Family

### **WINTER CLOTHING NEEDED FOR LOCAL CHARITY**

As our Father among the Saints, Basil the Great, teaches: *“The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot.”* Please bring any coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, or boots that you can spare, and put them in the containers in the vestibule. *Thank you!*

**Advent & Nativity 2021: Services & Activities ♦ Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Elmira Heights  
140 Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY ♦ (607) 732-3980 ♦ [www.HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org)**

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>DEC 5</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship Hour; "Visit from St. Nicholas!" 6:30 PM Great Vespers & Litya: St. Nicholas Day	<u>6</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy: Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonder-Worker	<u>7</u> 7:00 PM Adult Study: <i>Thinking Orthodox</i> : In Church and By Zoom	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> 3:00 – 8:00 PM Diocesan Teen Get-Together  6:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward (Note Time Change)
<u>12</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship & Nativity Play Practice Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Great Vespers & Litya: St. Herman of Alaska	<u>13</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy: Feast of Saint Herman of Alaska, the Wonder-Worker	<u>14</u> 7:00 PM Adult Study: <i>Thinking Orthodox</i> : In Church and By Zoom	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 9:00 AM Baking Day for the Bake Sale, in the Ministry Hall	<u>17</u> <i>If Needed</i> : Last Baking Day for the Bake Sale, in the Ministry Hall – Time TBA	<u>18</u> Parish Take-Out Bake Sale, 10 AM – 1 PM 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<u>19</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship & Nativity Play Practice	<u>20</u> 6:30 PM Parish Council Meets, in the Church	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> 6:30 PM Neighborhood Christmas Caroling	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> 8:00 AM Royal Hours for the Eve of the Nativity 5:00 PM Holy Supper at the Rectory 7:00 PM Nativity Vigil	<u>25</u> NATIVITY/CHRISTMAS 9:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Nativity of Christ CHRIST IS BORN! 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<u>26</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship Hour: Christmas Pot Luck! (No Church School or Teen Group Today!) Caroling to the Homebound	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 6:30 PM Panikhida for Nadezhda Melnik (40 Days)	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> 7:00 PM Great Vespers & Litya, Followed by New Year's Eve Fellowship Downstairs	<u>JAN 1 +BASIL / CIRCUMCIS.</u> 9:40 AM Hours & Liturgy; St. Basil's Day / Circumcision of Christ 3:30 PM Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<u>2</u> 8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Nativity Play! Fellowship Hour	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 6:30 PM Vigil of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water	<u>6</u> THEOPHANY 9:40 AM Hours & Liturgy of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward

UPDATED 12/26/2021

**Please consider your financial PLEDGE  
to the parish for 2022.**

**THE “GIVING GRID”**

Our 20 pledgers for 2021 pledged an average of \$61/week. If everyone who pledges were to increase their pledge by even 1 percent of their income; and if those households who aren't yet pledging (many of whom already give!) could commit to a pledged amount for 2022, then we could raise that average amount to at least \$75/week per pledging household ...

*Then, we could meet our anticipated budgeted Parishioner Support for the year 2022, just through the fulfilling of pledges!*

That would be another great step in the maturing **stewardship** of our parish family!

So, ask yourself: **Where am I on the grid?**  
**If I'm not at 10%, can I move 1 square to the left and pledge that amount for 2022?**

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Beyond a Tithe		Weekly Tithe	Weekly Upper Range of Giving			Weekly Middle Range of Giving			Weekly Lower Range of Giving		
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$138	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19

**Pledge Commitment Forms will be mailed out soon.**

**Thank you for your generous stewardship  
of the ministries of Holy Trinity Church!**

**With love in Christ,  
Fr. David**