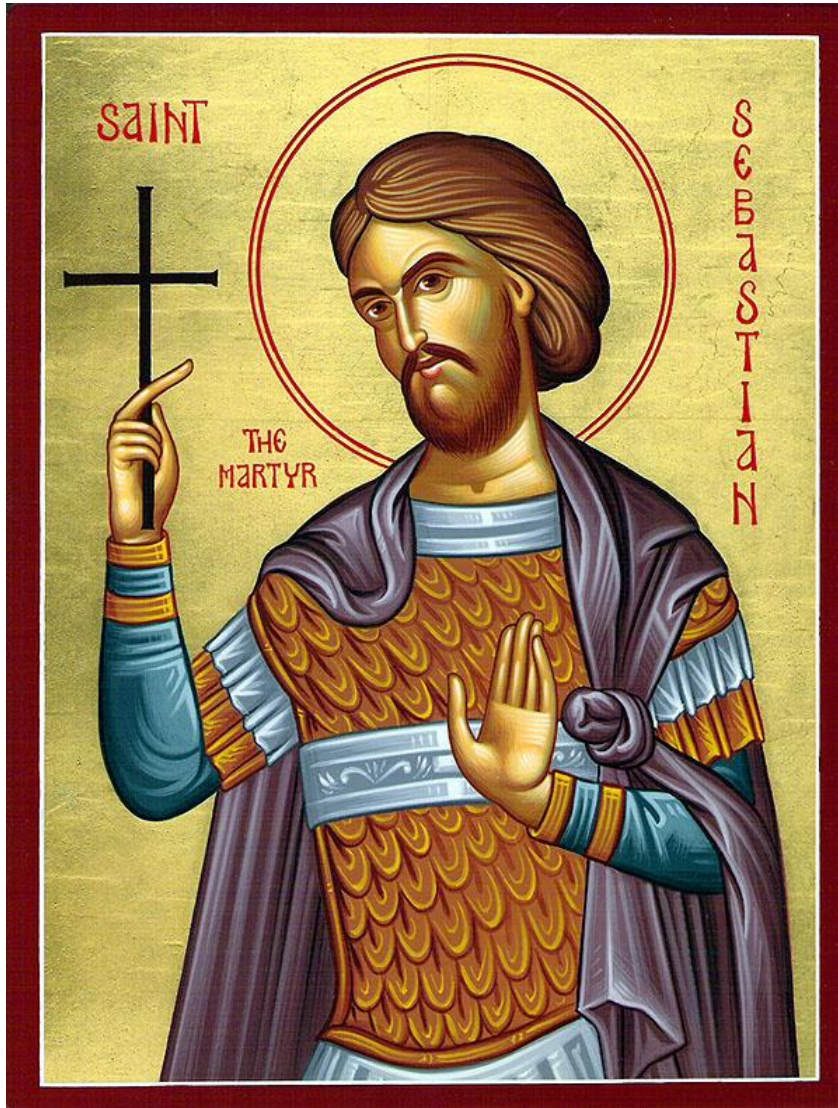


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

Email: frdavidcowan@gmail.com • www.holytrinityorthodoxchurch.org



Sunday, December 18, 2022 – Tone 2

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Before the Nativity • St. Sebastian of Rome

We are in the Nativity Fast, in preparation for the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Fast ends with the participation in Holy Communion, at the Divine Liturgy of our Lord's Nativity (Christmas) on Dec. 25. During the Fast we strive to abstain from meat, from dairy as best we can, and from spiritually unproductive entertainment, conversation, and distraction. **And it is crucial to offer Confession during this season, as well.***

Confession is available regularly on Saturdays before or after Vespers, or by appointment during the week.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

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

Today – Sunday, December 18

8:40 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Hour, Nativity Play Practice, and Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

7:00 PM Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood – Meet in the Church at 7 PM

Friday, December 23

8:00 AM Royal Hours for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

Saturday, December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of the Lord; Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Holy Supper, at the Rectory – Tell Matusha Tamara if you plan to come. All are welcome!

7:00 PM Vigil: Compline & Matins, for the Eve of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 25 – Great Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ; Christmas Day: CHRIST IS BORN!

8:40 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

THANK YOU to All who Participated in Yesterday's Christmas Bake Sale!

We've come a long way since all of the work (a LOT of work!) that had to be done to update the Ministry Hall over the past year-and-a-half ... during and despite the pandemic ... then, last December's Bake Sale, the first sale we've held in many years ... through FOUR very successful sales in the past three months!

I believe that our guests have been impressed and inspired to see that, in a time when so many churches are struggling to stay open, Holy Trinity Church is – thanks be to God – alive and well! May it always be so; and many thanks to you for your part in it!

ATTENTION BAKERS: WALNUTS AVAILABLE

We have a lot of walnuts available for anyone who can use them. See Reader Alex.

PIEROGIES FOR SALE

We still have frozen pierogies for sale, at \$24 per bag (2 dozen per bag). See Reader Alex.

Stewardship for 2023



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM TODAY.

Pledge forms will of course be gratefully received at any time, but turning in your pledge as soon as possible will greatly help the Parish Council to anticipate our parishioner support income in preparing the operating budget for 2023.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM

for 2023



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

The purple **Stewardship Bulletin** offers information about what stewardship is (it is not just about money), our vision for what the parish can do in the short and long-term future with even stronger stewardship, and a "giving grid" to help calculate percentage giving.

Thank you!

SCRIPTURE READINGS – EPISTLE Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Brethren: By faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-25 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Thursday, Dec. 22, 7:00 PM,

Meeting at the Church

We will follow the Christmas Star, a beautiful Slavic Orthodox tradition, as we share the joy of the upcoming Feast with our neighbors! Warm drinks and snacks afterward!

HOLY SUPPER

Saturday, Dec. 24, 5:00 PM at the Rectory, 140 Horseheads Blvd.

Let Mat. Tamara know you would like to come!

A traditional lenten Christmas Eve meal, it is the last meal of the Advent fast. Fasting foods served can include barley, honey, stewed fruit, pierogi, sauerkraut, potatoes, lima beans, garlic, Lenten bread, or mushroom soup.

A lit candle symbolizes the star of Bethlehem. The bread broken and shared symbolizes Christ at the Last Supper. Foods range from bitter to sweet to remind us of the bitterness of life before Christ's birth and its sweetness after He came. After supper, all attend the Christmas Eve vigil. Hay under the tablecloth recalls the manger where Jesus' Mother placed Him. An extra place is always set -- for Jesus, either in Spirit, or in the form of a traveler or stranger, for none are turned away on this day without a warm invitation to partake!



LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE!



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATES!

December 29th - 31st

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for GLOW IN THE DARK

games, crafts, and fun during Christmas Vacation!

See Mat. Tamara or Mat. Katie for more information

MISSION: INVISIBLE

Our Parish Christmas Play ♦ Sunday, January 8, Following the Liturgy

In the Ministry Hall, Behind the Rectory ♦ Mark Your Calendar and Be Here!

Prayer List

Memory Eternal: John, Violet; Chester; Valerii, Valentina, Evgenii, Roman, Mata; Walda; Leon; Petro; Mary, Jason; Kim; Claudia; Victor, Anatolei; Zegahab. All those taken from us by the Coronavirus, by sickness, violence, injury and disaster.

For Health: Newborn and newly-Named Aaliyah King-Styles (born 12/3); Fr. Jason Kappanadze, Fr. Daniel & Mat. Myra Kovalak, Fr. Herman & Mat. Cynthia Schick, Fr. Moses Berry; Fr. Joseph & Matushka Ellen Chupeck; Pani Joan Mahler; Matushka Patricia Mason, Matushka Kathleen White; Rdr. Thomas & Mildred; Mary; Dorothy; Kathleen; Antonina; Nancy Elizabeth; Brooke & Donald; recovering Catechumens Sue & Sarah; child Oliver; Tyler; Anna; James; Dmitri; expecting mothers Krista & Laura, and the children to be born to them; Thomas and altar server Thomas Cheplick who are traveling; Julie; Julie; Many; John; Nancy; Christa; Ilsa; Scott & Casey, Steven; Ryan; Child Hannah, Joshua, Helen, Erica, Ruth, Harriet, Katherine, Kristin, Sierra, Kate, David, Nicholas, Natalya; Anna; Kyriakos; and catechumens Charles, Sue, Amy, Stephen, Sarah, and Verity.

Diocesan Prayer Requests: Archbishop BENJAMIN; Bishop MATTHIAS; Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman); Mitred Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky; Archpriest John Kluchko; Fr. John Nightingale; Fr. Alexander Tandilashvili; Fr. James Parsells; Dn. Alexander & Matushka Teresa Anderson; Matushka Barbara Searfoorce, Matushka Kathy Toroney; Matushka Barbara Suchernick; Rdr. Joshua, Rdr. Fredric; Ann, Edward, Gleb, Dongguan, Michael; Maria, Oleg, Sergei, Marina, Valentina, Elena, Victor, Diane, Gergana, Dimo, Nadezda, Timothy, Rania; Anita, George; Aleksei; Ronald. 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. **Birthday:** Julianna Cheplick (12/21)

Parish Children:

Lucia	Hannah	Jeremiah	Andrew	Myra	Ezekiel	Aalyiah
Lydia	Natalie	Emilia	Patrick	Sophia	Dmitri	Jonah
Gabriel	Angelina	John	Thomas	Nikolai	Melania	Alexei
Larissa	Julianna	Nadia	Gabriel	Justus	Samuel	Gabriel
Michael	Hannah	Raphael	Verity	Anna	Julie	Michelle

College Students: Anna McKane – Duke University •

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

Nathan Devens – SUNY Cobleskill • Larissa Cheplick – Daemen College • Magdalena Botrous – LECOM Elmira

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. 17th – 24th Reader Samuel ♦ Dec. 24th – 31st Reader William (Nativity 12/24 & 25)

Dec. 31st – Jan. 7th Reader Dmitri (Circumcision 12/31 & 1/1, Theophany 1/5 & 1/6)

Unless otherwise noted: Each week, the readers' schedule begins with Great Vespers on Saturday evening and continues through, and including, the following Saturday morning. If you cannot read for all services your assigned week, arrange a substitute yourself, and inform Fr. David or Dn. Michael of who will substitute for you.

WINTER 2022-23 FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

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

Dec. 18 Urda, Cusick & Speen Families ♦ Dec. 25 Nativity of our Lord – No Coffee Hour

Jan. 1 Christmas Leftovers Potluck ♦ Jan. 8 Haluszczak & Holobinko Families

Jan. 15 Charlanow Family ♦ Jan. 22 Cheplick & Cheplick Families

Jan. 29 Angelo, Gomez & O'Brien Families ♦ Feb. 5 Weeks & Turic Families

Feb. 12 Cowan Family ♦ Feb. 19 Meatfare Potluck ♦ Feb. 26 Cheesefare: Karney Family

PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION

Emergency Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David at 732-3980, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

Anointing In Sickness: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick, however severe. If you are preparing for surgery (or recovering from it), please call Father.

Marriages and Baptisms require early planning, scheduling, and selection of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates, choosing sponsors, and reserving reception halls.

Funerals are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians who have not declined the Sacraments.

The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.

Advent & Nativity 2022-23 ♦ Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Elmira Heights ♦ www.HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org

+SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 4	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship Hour; "Visit from St. Nicholas!"	6:30 PM Great Vespers & Litya: St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker	8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy: Saint Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker 7:00 PM Adult Study: <i>Thinking Orthodox</i> ; In Church and By Zoom		<i>Ft. David Away – Diocesan Council Meets, Bronville</i>		3:30 PM Youth Choir 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship, Church School, Teen Group	6:30 PM Great Vespers & Litya: Saint Herman of Alaska, the Wonder-Worker	8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy: Feast of Saint Herman of Alaska, the Wonder-Worker	9:00 AM Pierogi Workshop, in the Ministry Hall			10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Christmas Bake Sale, Ministry Hall 3:30 PM Youth Choir 4:30 PM Pankhida for Stella Michaliko 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> EVE OF THE NATIVITY
8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Fellowship, Church School, Teen Group				7:00 PM Orthodoxy 101, In Church and By Zoom	7:00 PM Caroling in the Neighborhood – Meet at Church	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	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>
8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy Nativity of Christ CHRIST IS BORN! (No Church School or Teen Group Today)				12 PM – 3 PM Vacation Church School <i>Ft. David Away – Presbytery's Council Meets, Bronville</i>	12 PM – 3 PM Vacation Church School	12 PM – 3 PM Vacation Church School 5:00 PM Great Vespers & Litya, St. Basil's Feast / Circumcision of Christ; Confessions Afterward
JAN 1 +BASIL / CIRCUMCIS	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> EVE OF THEOPHANY	<u>6</u> THEOPHANY	<u>7</u>
8:40 AM Hours & Liturgy St. Basil's Day / Circumcision of Our Lord; Fellowship Hour Play Rehearsal				6:30 PM Vigil of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water	9:40 AM Hours & Liturgy of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water <i>Home Blessings Begin</i>	<i>Home Blessings Continue</i> 3:30 PM Play Rehearsal 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward