

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Tone 6

31st Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday After Theophany ♦ Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

DATE CHANGE (AGAIN):

NATIVITY PLAY & TALENT SHOWCASE, SUNDAY, JAN. 14

Because of the storm this weekend, we have re-scheduled for next Sunday.

The show will begin after Fellowship Hour.

**Dress Rehearsal for both the Nativity Play and the Talent Showcase
will be Saturday, January 13, 3:00-4:45pm, in the Ministry Hall.**

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, January 7

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, Followed by Fellowship Hour

Thursday, January 11

6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting – in the Church

Saturday, January 13

3:00 – 4:45 PM Dress Rehearsal for Nativity Showcase – in the Ministry Hall

5:00 PM Great Vespers; Private Confession Available Afterward

Sunday, January 14

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, Followed by Fellowship Hour Downstairs, and then, All Are Invited to --
The 2nd Annual Parish Christmas Showcase! – in the Ministry Hall

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TODAY'S EPISTLES Ephesians 4:7-13 Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Acts 19:1-8 In those days, it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

TODAY'S GOSPELS Matthew 4:12-17 At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 1:29-34 At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." **Daily Readings: www.oca.org/readings**

CHURCH SCHOOL and TEEN GROUP will resume on Sunday, January 21.

Church School will meet each Sunday, and Teen Group will meet every other Sunday.

Thank you!

Stewardship for 2024



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM A.S.A.P.!

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 2024.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM for 2024



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

The yellow **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!

RE-CLAIMING OUR HOMES FOR CHRIST: A NOTE ON HOUSE BLESSINGS

When our homes are blessed, we reclaim our homes, and everyone and everything in them, for Christ: our wives, our husbands, our marriages... our children... our working and studying... our worrying and our struggling... our decisions and our dilemmas... our successes and our rejoicing: we reclaim all of our lives for Christ, by inviting Him into our inner sanctum.



The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. We show the Lord – and the devil – that we wish for God to physically expel every trace of sin, anger, bitterness, and worry that has invaded our homes and our families over the past year!

Plan your home blessing to happen at a time when **all family members can be present**, if at all possible.

When Father comes to bless the home, these things should be prepared:

- A lit candle, an icon, and a wide bowl for Holy Water should be on the table.
- All present in the house should participate. If kids are present, an icon for each child to carry (who is big enough to carry one) should also be on the table.
- All radios, televisions, etc. should be turned off.
- Lists of Departed and Living family members and loved ones to be prayed for.

**Home Blessings will begin on the Feast of Theophany, Saturday, January 6,
and continue until at least the end of January.**

Contact Fr. David to schedule yours, at 732-3980 or frdavidcowan@gmail.com

If you're reading this by computer or phone, click [here](#) to schedule your home blessing online.

Prayer List

Memory Eternal: Joseph, Michael; Anna; Frances; Robert Karney; Peyton; Randy; Steve; Geiza; Sonia; Deacon Euripides; Olga; Anne, Farrokh; Philip; Lynn; Cynthia; Archpriest Michael; Walter; Anita; Paul, Sonia. All those taken from us by sickness, violence, injury and disaster.

For Health: Reader Thomas Cheplick; recovering Verity, Leonidas & Many; Matushka Kathryn; Matushka Tamara, Mat. Anastasia Molodyko-Harris; Fr. Jason Kappanadze; Fr. Daniel & Mat. Myra Kovalak; Fr. Herman & Mat. Cynthia Schick, Fr. Moses Berry; Fr. Joseph & Matushka Ellen Chupeck; Pani Joan Mahler; Ty; Janine; Karen; Michael, Nancy & Natalie Karney; Kay; Gary, Brandy; Kelly; Shawn; Gregory; Patricia; Carl; Olga; Edward; Kathleen; Nancy; David; James; Julie; Antonina; Brooke; Elena; Tyler; Dmitri; expecting mothers Elena, Rachel, Kathryn, Eyerin, and the children to be born of them; Deborah; Juliana; Ian; John; Christa; Scott & Casey, Steven; Child Hannah, Joshua, Ilsa, Erica, Caitlin, Helen, Ruth, Katherine, Kristin, Sierra; Nicholas, Sergei; Nancy; Anna; Catechumens Stephen, Raychel, Jason, Oliver & Emory.

Diocesan Prayer Requests: Archbp. BENJAMIN; Bishop MATTHIAS; Fr. Timothy Holowatch; Fr. Samuel & Mat. JoAnne Kedala; Fr. David Kossey; Protodn. Andrew Boisvert; Dn. John Komline; Dn. Jason & Mat. Laura Gagnon and their children Eleanor, Julian and Basil; Matushka Donnalynn Morvay; Mat. Jeanne Zablotzky; Paul, Nadezda, Anastasia, Alexandra, Denis, infant Daniel; Loraine; Richard, Bonnie; William; child Elizabeth; Linda, Richard; Dennis, Frances. All the clergy, faithful and their families of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey.

Birthday: Reader Nicholas Hojnicky (1/7).

Parish Children:

Lucia	Hannah	Jeremiah	Andrew	Myra	Ezekiel	Aalyiah	Sophia
Lydia	Natalie	Emilia	Patrick	Sophia	Rdr. Dmitri	Jonah	Gabriel
Angelina	John	Thomas	Nikolai	Melania	Alexei	Nadia	Rdr. Gabriel
Justus	Elea	Samuel	Gabriel	Michael	Hannah	Raphael	Verity
Julie	Michelle	Aiden	Shea	Jack	Oliver	Elizabeth	Anthony
Evangeline	Alfred	Rosemary	James	Brigid	Dorothea		

College Students: Nathan Devens – SUNY Cobleskill •

Larissa Cheplick – Daemen College • Julianna Cheplick – SUNY Delhi

Anastasia Shikula & 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

Jan 6th - Jan. 13th: Mary Carol Haluszczak; Jan. 13th – Jan. 20th: Emilia Karney, Natalie Karney & Lydia Dudek
Jan. 20th -Jan. 27th: Reader Alexander; Jan. 27th – Feb. 3rd: Reader William (Three Hierarchs 1/30 & Meeting of Lord 2/2)
Feb. 3rd – Feb. 10th: Mat. Tamara & Reader Gabriel

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTING SCHEDULE

Jan 7 Cowan Family

Jan 14 Haluszczak and Dudek Families ♦ Jan 21 Charlanow Family ♦ Jan 28 Angelo, Gomez, and O'Brien Families

Feb 4 Rinchack and Strichartz Families ♦ Feb 11 Parish Chili Cook Off & Potluck

Feb 18 Cusick, Hults, and Urda Families ♦ Feb 25 Cheplick Families

PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Anointing In Sickness: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for any Orthodox Christian 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 cremated persons.