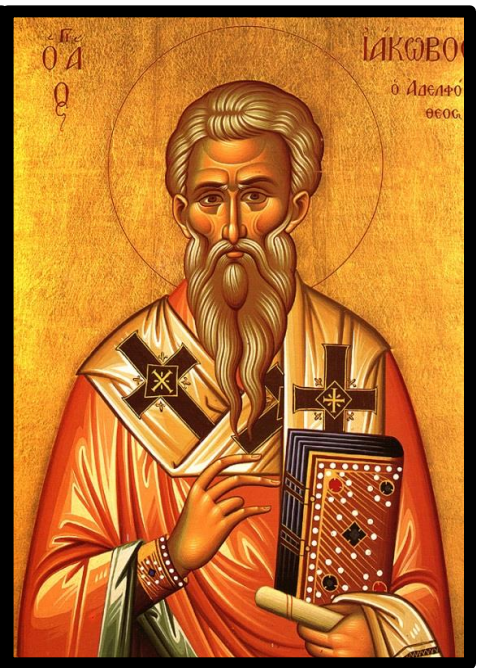
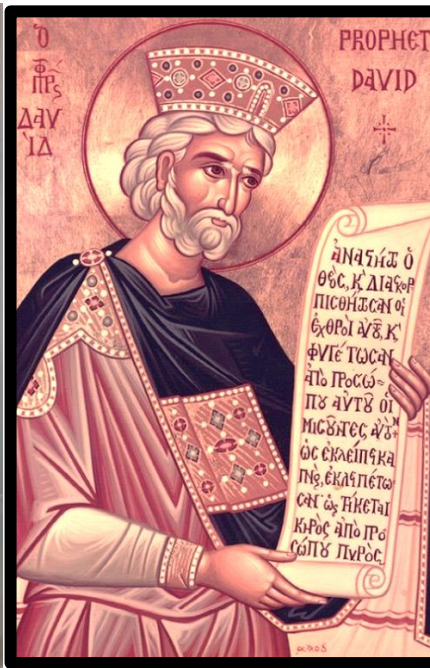
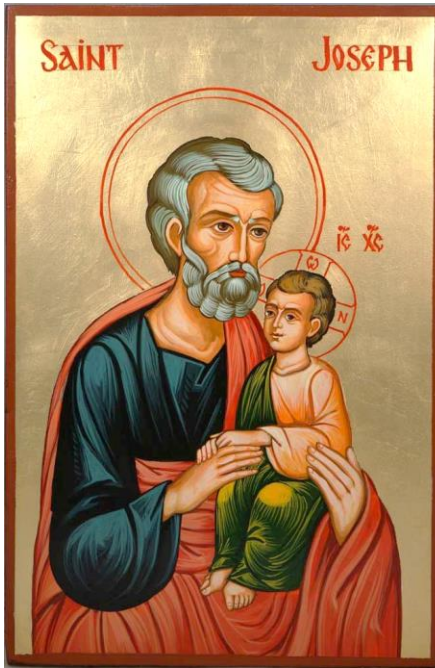


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

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



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Sunday, December 29, 2024 – Tone 2

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed,

David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.

The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem.

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ.

Sunday After the Nativity.

TODAY - NATIVITY PLAY & TALENT SHOWCASE

The show will begin after Fellowship Hour.

Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy the show!

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!*

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Most Services May Be Joined by Live Stream at our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@holytrinitychurchelmira>

or go to www.YouTube.com and search for “Holy Trinity Church Elmira Heights NY”

Today – Sunday, December 29

8:40 AM *3rd and 6th Hours*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Fellowship Hour Potluck Downstairs – Please Bring A Dish to Share!
Then: Parish Nativity Showcase in the Ministry Hall

Tuesday, December 31

6:30 PM *Vesperal Liturgy* – Feasts of St. Basil the Great and the Circumcision of the Lord,
Followed by *Litva* Memorial Service for Lindsay Elaine Devens (+12/31/2013)

Saturday, January 4

5:00 PM *Great Vespers*; Private Confession Available Afterward

Sunday, January 5 – Eve of the Great Feast of Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord

8:40 AM *3rd and 6th Hours*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Fellowship Hour & Church School

6:30 PM *Vigil, with the Blessing of Water* – Theophany

Monday, January 6 – The Great Feast of Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord by Saint John the Forerunner

9:40 AM *3rd and 6th Hours*

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of Water*, Great Feast of Theophany

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EPISTLE Galatians 1:11-19 Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL 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.”

Daily Readings: www.oca.org/readings

REMINDER: Pledge Forms Appreciated for 2025!

Normally about 20 households turn in Annual Pledge Forms for “time / talent / treasure” support of the parish in the coming year. We have not reached that goal yet. Please remember to turn in your pledge; and if you haven't pledged before, please consider doing so!

For guidance on calculating Percentage Giving, see the back page. Questions? See Fr. David.

Prayer List

Memory Eternal: Pani Joan Mahler (+12/28); Zoran, Dieter; Dorothy, Michael, Marie; Feodor, Seraphima, Luba; Rocco; Skylar, Rebecca; Jeannie Sura; Kathy, Travis; Chris; Michael, Lydia, Paul; Ann, Nicholas, Betty; Michael; Eva; Frank; Michael. Ever-memorable + Melania Kosty (Mat. Tamara's grandmother, St. Melania of Rome, 12/31); Lindsay Elaine Devens (12/31/13). All the departed named for King David, St. Joseph the Betrothed, and St. James the Brother of the Lord (feast day, today) and for St. Basil the Great and St. Emilia, his mother (1/1). All those taken from us by sickness, violence, injury and disaster.

For Health: Recovering Shirley & Fr. David; Michael Karney; Matushka Kathryn; Fr. Jason Kappanadze; Fr. Daniel & Mat. Myra Kovalak; Subdeacon Walter; Children Evita, Elliot and Jordyn; Janet; Christal; Olga; Cassidy; Joseph; Abigail; Christopher & David; David, Kylie & Sunny; Ricky & John; Matrona; Patricia, Michael & Jacob; James; Antonina; Brooke; Elena; Tyler; Dmitri; expecting mothers Amanda, Emily, Carrie and the children to be born of them; Mildred Cheplick; Mildred Urda; Deborah; Juliana; John; Scott & Casey, Child Hannah, Joshua, Ilsa, Erica, Caitlin, Helen, Ruth, Katherine, Sierra; Nicholas, Anna; Catechumens Raychel, Jason, Oliver, Madeline, Steven, Jeremiah, Sarah & Zachary.

Diocesan Prayer Requests: Archbp. NATHANIEL; Archbp. BENJAMIN; Fr. John & Matushka Katherine Kowalczyk; Fr. John Klingel; Fr. James & Matushka Lisa Weremedic; Deacon Michael Speck; Matushka Mary Shafran; Matushka Frances Vansuch; Miguel, Maher, Nashwa, Thomas; Annie, Yuri, Patricia, Gail; Ludmilla, Stephen, Zinaida, Anastasia and her family, Michael, Maria; Joseph, Christine; Taisia; Jeremy, Veronica, Eugene; George, Maritza, Sam; Robert; Anna, Rose, Carrie and the child to be born of her, Apollos, child Rose; John, Ronald; Russell; Jill and her children. All the clergy, faithful, their families and those who are ill, of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. **Name Days:** All those named for King David, St. Joseph the Betrothed & St. James the Brother of the Lord (today); Anysia Lyon (Martyr Anysia, 12/30), Melania Cheplick (St. Melania of Rome, 12/31). Reader William and all named for St. Basil the Great (1/1); Jessica Emilia Fanaro, Emilia Karney, and all named for St. Emilia, mother of St. Basil (1/1). Juliana Speen, Amy Juliana Rinchack, Julie Davis, and all named for St. Juliana of Lazarevo (1/2). **Birthdays:** Anna Neidig (12/22), Michael Turic (12/30), Amy Rinchack & Veronica Pearce (Fr. David's godmother) (1/1); Julie Charlanow (1/2), Carrie Matrona Hooper (1/3). **Anniversary:** Rdr. Gabriel (Tonsuring, 12/29/18).

Parish Children:

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

College Students: Thomas Cheplick – Niagara College • Gabriel Cowan – Corning Community College
Angeline McKane – West Point Academy • Nathan Devens – SUNY Cobleskill • Madeline Cieslak – Elmira College
Larissa Cheplick – Daemen College • Julianna Cheplick – SUNY Delhi
Mihaela Toader, 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

Dec. 28th – Jan. 4th: Matushka Tamara & Reader Gabriel ♦ Jan. 4th – Jan. 11th: Reader William (1/5 & 1/6: Theophany)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTING SCHEDULE

Fast Free 12/25 – 1/4 ♦ Dec 29 Christmas Showcase Pot Luck ♦ Jan 5 Memorial Meal In Memory of Paul Urda, Offered By His Family ♦ Jan 12 Cowan Family ♦ Jan 19 Haluszczak & Dudek Families ♦ Jan 26 Lamprinos Family

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec 29 Amy Rinchack ♦ Jan 5 Mat. Katie ♦
Jan 12 Nina Dudek ♦ Jan 19 Sarah Harvey ♦ Jan 26 Amy Rinchack

COFFEE HOUR SUPPLIES – DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR:

8-Oz. Cold Cups ♦ Large Plates ♦ Bowls ♦ Napkins

Presents

SAINTS PETER & PAUL CONCERT SERIES

GLEB IVANOV, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sponsored by **DAVID DRANCHAK**
in memory of Dranchak, Kulasza
and Karlgut families.

The Soul of Romanticism

SUNDAY, December 29th
4:00 PM

Johannes Brahms
Two Intermezzos
Op.118 No.2 and No.6

Robert Schumann
The Fantasy Pieces Op.73
For Cello and Piano

Ernest Chausson
Poeme Op.25
For Violin and Piano

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
The Piano Trio in D Minor, Op.49

The event will take place at SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church located
at 210 Hill Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760.

Contact information:
V.Rev. Alexey Karlgut, Rector. 607.759.1833
Gleb Ivanov. Artistic Director of the series. 646.331.9939

The church and Blüthner School of Music in Hoboken, NJ have
collaborated to present this wonderful night.

THE TICKET PRICE IS \$25.

Join us for a reception following the performance,
included in the ticket price.

WORLD RENOWNED MUSICIANS



GLEB IVANOV
PIANO



TAISIYA LOSMAKOVA
VIOLIN



ANDREY TCHEKMAZOV
CELLO

All the profits will go to the relief from catastrophic flood of Hurricane Debby
to St. Olympia Orthodox Mission in Norwood/Potsdam, NY.

If you can not attend please consider donating the cost of the ticket
to this important cause.



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, Monday, January 6,
and continue until at least the end of January.**

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

PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION

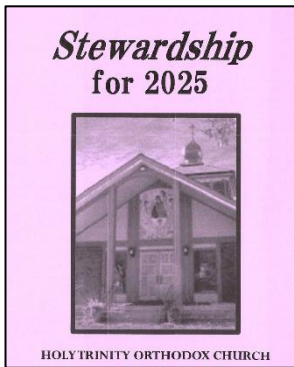
Emergency Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please call Father David at 732-3980, when a family member is taken to the hospital.

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.

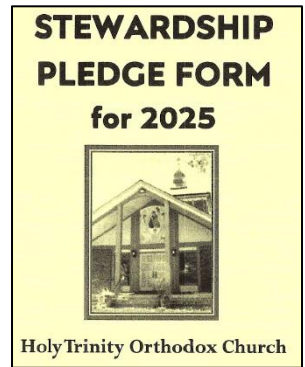
Funerals are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians who have not declined the Sacraments.

The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremated persons.



**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR
2025 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 2025.



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!

Please consider your financial PLEDGE to the parish for 2025.

THE “GIVING GRID”

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 2025?

	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%
A	\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
B	\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
C	\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
D	\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
E	\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
F	\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
G	\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
H	\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15

Pledge Forms are on the candle desk and on the tables downstairs.
You can put your completed form in the ANNUAL PLEDGE box, or give it to Fr. David or to Toni Weeks, our Parish Treasurer.

**Thank you for your generous stewardship
of the ministries of Holy Trinity Church!**
With love in Christ,
Fr. David