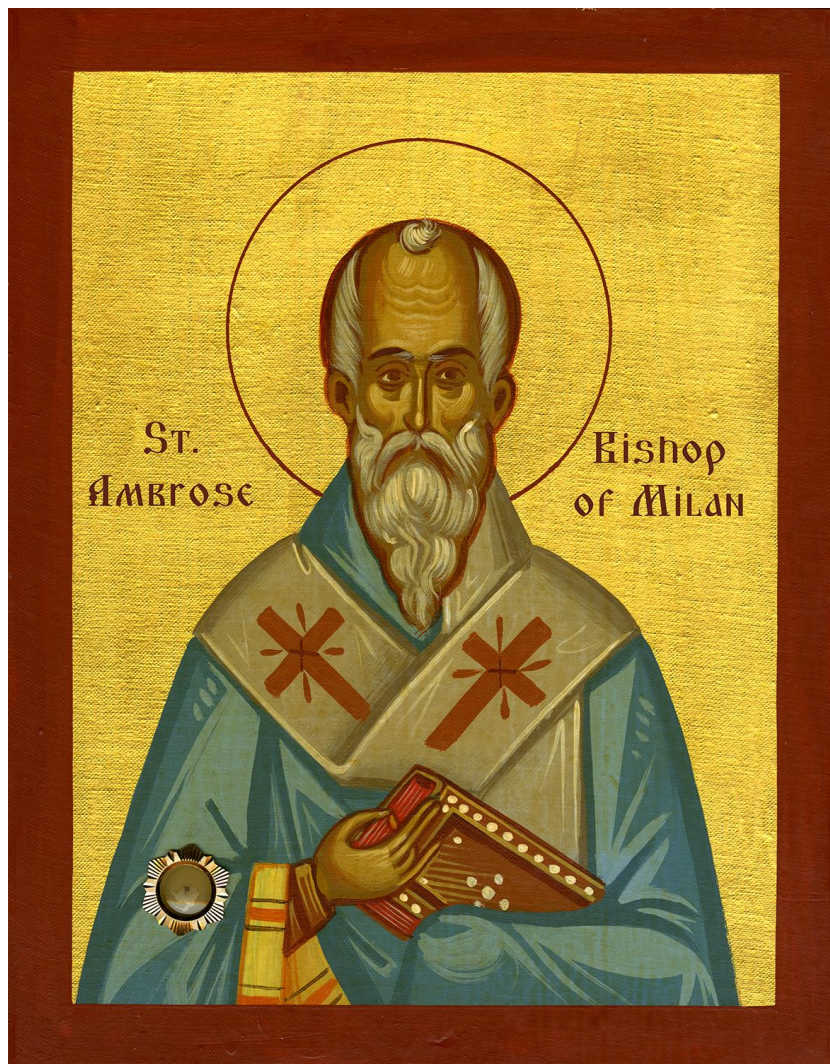


# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

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## Sunday, December 7 – Tone 1

### 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

### Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

#### **GIVING THANKS TO YOU, FOR THE THANKSGIVING DINNERS!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving basket ministry!  
You were so generous that we were able to feed 10 families  
and have some funds left over to provide aid to local families in need this winter.  
*God bless you all!*

## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

or go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for "Holy Trinity Church Elmira Heights NY"

### Today – Sunday, December 7

8:40 AM *3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by "Visit from St. Nicholas," Fellowship Hour & Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, December 10

7:00 PM Zoom Talk: "The Nativity of the Lord in the Orthodox Tradition" by Fr. David

### Saturday, December 13 – Feast of Saint Herman the Wonder-Worker of Alaska

10:00 AM *Akathist* to St. Herman of Alaska

3:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

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

### Sunday, December 14

8:40 AM *3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours*

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

### Saturday, December 20

9:00 AM Drop Off Your Bake Sale Goods for Setup – in the Ministry Hall

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Parish Bake Sale Fundraiser – in the Ministry Hall

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

### Sunday, December 21

8:40 AM *Reception by Chrismation* of Catechumens Gregory and Christal Crowell

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

6:00 PM *Panikhida* for Rodica Totan (40 Days)

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**EPISTLE Ephesians 5:9-19** Brethren: Walk as children of the light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**GOSPEL Luke 17:12-19** At that time, as Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

**Daily Scripture Readings: [www.oca.org/readings](http://www.oca.org/readings)**

### ATTENTION BAKERS!

Anyone who can: Please bake 10 dozen cookies for our Christmas Bake Sale, happening Saturday, December 20.

*Consider pre-baking and freezing your items.* Bring your cookies to the Ministry Hall by 9:00 AM on sale day.

Please let Rdr. Alex Charlanow know what you are making. Thank you!

### ***We are in the 40-Day 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 after Vespers, or by appointment during the week.*

### Prayer List

**Memory Eternal:** Ann; Leonid, Erik, Mark; Khouriyeh Carol; Dorothy; Janusz; Jane; Richard, Sophie; Henry, Domingo, Kanjana, Kerry; infant Dionysios; James; Rodica; Julian; Mark, Olga, Julia, Antoinette; Aldo; Rebecca, Sonia, George; Sara; Theodosia; Benjamin; Stephanie. Ever-memorable infant Stylianos Neidig (+12/9/20) and Matushka Michelle Fetsko. Ever-memorable Jane Ann (Fr. David's grandmother) and all the departed named for St. Anna (Conception of the Theotokos, 12/9) and for the Prophetess Hannah (St. Hannah, 12/9); Metropolitan Herman and all named for St. Herman of Alaska (12/13). All those taken from us by sickness, violence, injury and disaster.

**For Health:** Newly Baptized Galilee Elizabeth Crowell (11/15) & Alexandra Stewart (11/8); Denis Kingsley, Antonina Weeks, Rdr. Gabriel Cowan & Patrick, recovering from surgery; Kathleen Loveland; Matushka Kathryn; Fr. Daniel & Mat. Myra Kovalak; Mat. Patricia Mason; James, Stephanie, Jody, Jackie; Tammy; Susan; Rob; Catherine; Jane Ann; Mary-Carol; Michael; David; Julee; Many; Olga; Patricia; Joyce; Matrona; James; Brooke; Elena; Tyler; George; Natasha, Nika; Anastasia; Sarah Harvey and the child to be born to her; newborn Maren and her mother Rachel; infant Natalie and her mother Ana; Deborah; John; Scott & Casey, Child Hannah, Joshua, Ilsa, Erica, Harry, Caitlin, Helen, Sierra; Nicholas, Anna; Catechumens Raychel, Oliver, Madeline, Tomas, Gregory, Christal, Camron, Logan, William, Lyndsey and Robert.

**Diocesan Prayer Requests:** Archbp. NATHANIEL; Archbp. BENJAMIN; Fr. Volodymyr Zablotsky; Fr. Terenti Wasielewski; Fr. Thomas & Matushka Evelyn Edwards; John, Dora, John; David, John; George; newborn Matthias and his parents Chrissy & Eli; Boris; Peter, child John, Debbie, Iliko; Janice, Sergey, Vasilia. All the clergy, faithful, their families and those who are ill, of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. **Name Days:** Lucia Green (Martyr Lucia, 12/3); Anna Neidig (Conception of the Theotokos, 12/9); Hannah Hendershot (Prophetess Hannah, 12/9) and all those named Ann, Anna and Hannah. The community of St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, and all those named for St. Herman of Alaska (12/13). **Birthdays:** Maria (Jam) Cheplick (12/5); Larissa Cheplick (12/10); Anna & Katherine McKane (12/11). **Traveling:** Many.

#### **Parish Children:**

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

**College Students:** Larissa Cheplick – Daemen College • Julianna Cheplick – SUNY Delhi •

Thomas Cheplick – Corning Community College • Nathan Devens – SUNY Cobleskill •

Nadia Powers – SUNY Buffalo • Angelina McKane – West Point Academy • Madeline Cieslak – Elmira College

Cynthia Mathai, Mihaela Toader, Anastasia Shikula & Magdalena Botrous – LECOM Elmira

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

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

#### **READER SCHEDULE**

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>: Natalie Karney, Emilia Karney and Lydia Dudek ♦ Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Reader William ♦ Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>: Reader Alexander (Nativity 12/24 & 25) ♦ Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Matushka Tamara (Circumcision 1/1) ♦ Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>: Natalie Karney, Emilia Karney & Lydia Dudek (Theophany 1/5 -6) ♦ Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> Reader Dmitri ♦ Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>: Mary Carol Haluszczak ♦ Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>: Reader William

#### **CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

**Adult Choir:** After Liturgy on Sundays, December 7 ♦ December 21

**Youth Choir:** At 3:30 PM on Sat., Dec. 13

#### **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTING SCHEDULE**

**Advent Fast 11/15 – 12/24 December** 7 Karney Family ♦ 14 Haluszczak & Dudek Families 21 Lamprinos Family ♦

**Fast Free from 12/25 – 1/4** ♦ December 28 Christmas Potluck

#### **CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE**

12/7 Nina ♦ 12/14 Amy ♦ 12/21 Amy ♦ 12/28 Mat Katie ♦ 1/4 Nina ♦ 1/11 Amy ♦ 1/18 Amy ♦ 1/25 Mat Katie

#### **COFFEE HOUR SUPPLIES – DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR:**

Forks ♦ Small Plates ♦ Bowls

#### **“SOCKS & SNACKS” MINISTRY SUPPLIES – PLEASE HELP US REPLENISH THESE ITEMS:**

Winter hats ♦ Gloves ♦ Scarves

# NATIVITY 2025 – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ELMIRA HEIGHTS DECORATIONS, LITURGICAL ITEMS & FELLOWSHIP

## Voluntary Donations for the Nativity Celebration (Christmas)

If you wish to sponsor one or more of the following items, please make a check mark in the blank.  
Please place the name(s) of loved ones you wish to commemorate in the spaces at the bottom.  
Thank you, and may God grant you a most joyous Nativity Celebration!

**CANDLES**

- Vigil Candles for the Holy Altar Table .....\$25.00
- Vigil Candles – Tetrapod (Center Table).....\$25.00

**PARISH FELLOWSHIP**

- Gifts from St. Nicholas to the Children ..... \$100.00
- Fellowship Hour, Sunday After Christmas ...\$50.00

**SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL ITEMS**

- Sacramental Wine ..... \$100.00
- Rose incense .....\$50.00
- Vestment and Covering Cleaning .....\$50.00

**FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

- Poinsettia Plants for the Icons of Christ and the Theotokos .....\$50.00
- Church Poinsettias: (write in below)
- # of Poinsettias x \$10.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation





Give Online with QR Code; select "Nativity/Christmas" under "Please Choose Fund", and type specific items in the Memo section if you wish.

### SENDING YOUR DONATION

My donation(s) are with prayers for:

Departed Loved Ones \_\_\_\_\_

Living Loved Ones \_\_\_\_\_

(Feel free to list different names for multiple items – for example, "Candles in memory of Mary Smith, Flowers in memory of John Jones.")

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please either bring your donations to church and give them to Fr. David or Dn. Michael, or mail them to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 140 Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY 14903. Thank you!

# ***HOLY SUPPER***

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:30 PM, at the Rectory.**

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 dimmed room the darkness of life before the Lord came among us. 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.

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! Please join the celebration!

After supper, all attend the Christmas Eve vigil service in church.

**Let Matushka Tamara know that you want to come. Thank you!**

## **NATIVITY PLAY & TALENT SHOWCASE**

**This year the Church School children will be performing "The Nativity Story" on Sunday, December 28, followed by the Annual Parish Talent Showcase.**

**The show will begin after Fellowship Hour.**

**All ages are welcome to participate and share their talents of musical instruments, singing, dancing, poetry, comedy, sport skills, etc.**

**Please sign up with Mat. Tamara if you would like to perform.**

**Dress Rehearsal for both the Nativity Play and the Talent Showcase will be Saturday, December 27, 3:00-4:45pm, in the Ministry Hall.**

### **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.***

**Advent & Nativity 2025-26 ♦ Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Elmira Heights ♦ [www.HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org)**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY		SATURDAY
<b>DECEMBER 7</b> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy; "Visit from St. Nicholas," Fellowship; and Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM on Zoom: Talk on "The Nativity of the Lord in the Orthodox Tradition" by Fr. David	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Fr. David Away – Diocesan Council Meets, Bronxville</i>	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska, the Wonder-Worker 3:30 PM Youth Choir 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy; Fellowship; Church School; Teen Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9 AM Drop Off Bake Sale Items, Ministry Hall 10 AM – 1 PM Christmas Bake Sale, Ministry Hall 3:30 PM Youth Choir 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<b>21</b> 8:40 AM Chrismation of Gregory and Christal Cowell 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy; Fellowship; Church School; Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Parikhida for + Rodica Totan	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Caroling – Meet At Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM Royal Hours for the Eve of the Nativity 4:30 PM: Parish Holy Supper 7:00 PM Nativity Vigil	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy: <b>The Nativity of Christ CHRIST IS BORN!</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Akathist for the Nativity of the Lord Followed by Caroling Visitations	<b>27</b> 3:00-4:45 PM Rehearsal for Nativity Showcase 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confession Afterwards
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy; Fellowship Hour; Nativity Showcase, in the Ministry Hall	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Eve of the Feasts of St. Basil and The Circumcision of the Lord	<b>JANUARY 1</b> Feasts of St. Basil and The Circumcision of the Lord	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy; Fellowship Hour; Church School	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Vigil of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of Theophany, with the Blessing of Water <i>Home Blessings Begin</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:00 PM Great Vespers; Confessions Afterward