

Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church  
13 Pembroke Road, Danbury, CT 06811

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church  
121 Beaver St. New Britain, CT 06051

**Week of November 30th, 2025**

Parish Rectory: (203) 743-1106

Church Hall: (203) 628-7997

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Website: [www.stnicholasdanbury.org](http://www.stnicholasdanbury.org)

Served by: Father Stephen R. Russo, Pastor

Father Anthony DeFronzo, Emeritus

Cantors: Dr. Randy Weyant, Ms Ann Schlain

Trustees: Ms Anne Devine, Dr David Fanning

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Saturday, Nov 29 — Anticipation 25th Sunday after Pentecost, Andrew the Apostle**

**3:00 PM** Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, New Britain

Intention: Parishioners of Holy Trinity

**Sunday, Nov. 30 — 25nd Sunday after Pentecost, Andrew the Apostle**

**9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Danbury

Intention: +Florence Zuzalock, by Marion Smith

**Saturday, Dec. 6— St. Nicholas of Myra, Anticipation 26th Sunday after Pentecost**

**3:00 PM** Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, New Britain

Intention: The Health and well-being of our Parishioners

**Sunday, Dec. 7 — 26th Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Danbury

Intention: +John Guzi by Catherine Fulgrum

## **The Giving Tree**

More tags are available for the “Giving Tree” outreach program. It will benefit Family and Children’s Aid of Danbury (FCA). FCA provides support for families and children in a variety of ways. This year, your gifts will support children in foster care ages 2 to 17. Each tag has a variety of options/wishes for each child. It is not necessary to purchase everything listed; you can select as you like. If you would like to support this program but are unable to get out and purchase a gift, you can donate, and we will buy the gifts on your behalf. Please have your gifts wrapped and attach the tag so we know who they are for. Please place your wrapped gifts under the icon of St. Nicholas in front of the Church by Dec. 14th. If you have any questions, reach out to Diane D-Addario-Billimoria at 203-313-3200. A great big THANK-YOU to Diane for coordinating this special project for us! Please remember her and her family in your prayers. For any tags that are not taken, the church will fund the gifts, but I would appreciate it if someone could help order or buy the gifts, which will be from the church. Please see Fr. Stephen

## **The Vocation Icon**

We will continue to share the vocation Icon with our families. Our parish invites individuals and families to **sign up to take home the Vocation Icon** for one week and pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. In the Byzantine Catholic tradition, we rely on the fervent prayers of the faithful to nurture and sustain these sacred callings.

Please consider welcoming the icon into your home and offering daily prayers that the Lord will raise up servants for His holy Church. *“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”* (Matthew 9:38).

A sign-up sheet is available on the credence table. There are still open weeks. Thank you for joining in this important ministry of prayer.

Additionally, if you or anyone in your family is discerning a vocation and would like to discuss or obtain additional information and support, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Stephen.

## **Bingo Support in Danbury**

Our next bingo will be Saturday, Dec. 13th. Several door prizes have been received. Thank you so much for your generosity. Keep them coming, if you have any other oriiikWe need door prizes! If you can volunteer or would like to donate items for door prizes, it would be greatly appreciated. Our Bingo is a major source of income for our parish, so please support us by donating. Also, we are always in need of help. If you can spare any time, it goes a long way to spread the workload.

## **Bingo Craft Fair In Danbury**

We will also be having a small holiday craft fair in the church annex on Dec. 13th. 9-3. If any parishioners are interested in setting up a table to sell their arts and crafts, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Stephen or Stephanie Fanning.

## **This Sunday's Gospel Lk 13:10-17 Jesus heals the Woman bent over for 18 years Luke 13:10-17**

As we continue our journey through **Philip's Fast**, we hear the story of the woman whom Jesus healed after eighteen long years of being bent over, unable to stand upright. Her posture reflects what happens to all of us when the weight of sin, worry, and distraction bends our hearts toward the earth. But Christ calls her forward, touches her, and restores her to fullness and dignity. This season of preparation invites us to do the same—to come to Christ with whatever has bent us down, trusting that His mercy can straighten what is crooked and lift what has fallen. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, Philip's Fast becomes our journey from heaviness to healing, from being bowed down to standing in the light of His Nativity.

### **St. Nicholas Celebration**

Please join us on **Sunday, December 7th**, for a festive **parish brunch in the lower hall** following the **9:00 AM Divine Liturgy**. As we celebrate the feast of our holy patron, **St. Nicholas**, we will also welcome a special visit from St. Nicholas himself! This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship, joy, and honoring the saint who guides and protects our parish community. All are welcome—come and celebrate with us and bring friends and family! There is a sign-up sheet in the back. Parishioners are asked to bring deserts.

### **St. Nicholas Celebration Set-up**

If anyone would like to help set up on the 6th, please join us at 9:30 in the lower hall to set up tables and help with kitchen preparation. Unfortunately, Fr. Stephen has to officiate at a funeral in Stamford that morning, but he will be back in the afternoon to decorate the church starting at 3:00 PM. If you can spare a few hours to help decorate the church, the help would be appreciated.

## **Continue the Journey of Philip's Fast**

As we move deeper into **Philip's Fast**, the Church invites us to renew our hearts in preparation for the joyful Feast of the Nativity. This sacred season is a gift—a time to slow down, pray more intentionally, simplify our lives, and open our hearts to Christ's coming. Through **prayer, fasting, and acts of charity**, we make room for the Lord to shine His healing light into our families, our parish, and our world. Let us encourage one another to keep the fast with love, hope, and perseverance, so that when we arrive at Bethlehem, our hearts may be ready to welcome the newborn Savior with joy. May this season be one of spiritual renewal and grace for all of us. And may these days of preparation fill your homes with peace, your hearts with hope, and your lives with the quiet joy of Christ's coming. Let us walk this fast together in faith and love, trusting in the promise that *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:5).



**I thought you might enjoy some additional short stories to inspire you as you journey to the Feast of the Incarnation! Enjoy,**

**Your servant in Christ**

**Fr. Stephen**

### **1. The Woman Who Finally Looked Up**

A woman in the parish had carried burdens for many years—worry for her family, work, and health. One day after Divine Liturgy, she said, “I realized I’ve been walking through life bent over, always looking down.” That week she decided to spend five quiet minutes each morning thanking God before anything else. “For the first time in a long time,” she said, “I feel like I’m standing up straight again.”

**Lesson:** Small moments of prayer can lift the heaviest burdens.

### **2. The Child Who Helped His Grandmother**

A little boy noticed that his grandmother walked slowly and carefully because of her back. Wanting to help, he held her hand wherever they went. She later said that even more than his help, it was his love that straightened her spirit.

**Lesson:** Sometimes we cannot heal another’s body, but we can lift their heart.

### **3. The Gift of Standing Tall**

A man who had drifted from the Church for years decided during Philip’s Fast to try confession again. Afterward, he told the priest, “I feel taller. I didn’t know how much I was carrying until Christ took it from me.”

**Lesson:** Christ still straightens what is bent in us—especially through repentance and mercy.

### **4. The Woman and the Candle**

A woman going through deep grief lit a candle before an icon of Christ, whispering, “Lord, I cannot lift myself.” She came back every day during the fast. Little by little, her heart grew lighter. Later she said, “The candle didn’t change anything around me—but it changed everything inside me.”

**Lesson:** Turning toward the light helps

## **Blessing of the Waterways – January 11**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 11th at 11:00 AM!** This year, we joyfully reestablish the beautiful **Theophany tradition of blessing the waterways.** As Christ descended into the Jordan for His Baptism, we will gather at a Danbury park along the edge of **Candlewood Lake** to bless the waters and proclaim the sanctification of all creation. We also hope to welcome participation from our sister **Eastern Christian churches** as a sign of unity and shared faith. More details will be announced after Christmas. Please plan to join us for this grace-filled celebration! We can use some assistance in organizing this event. If you are interested, please see Fr. Stephen.



In the **Eastern Catholic Church**, Theophany is one of the most profound and ancient feasts of the liturgical year. It commemorates the **first public manifestation of the Holy Trinity:** the Father’s voice proclaiming Jesus as His beloved Son, the Son standing in the waters, and the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. Through the Baptism of Christ, the waters—and all creation—are blessed and renewed. This feast reminds us of our own baptismal calling and the grace that continues to sanctify our lives.

## **Children Needed for Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant**

We are excited to prepare this year’s **Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant** and invite all children of the parish to take part in telling the story of Christ’s birth. Angels, shepherds, wise men, and candle lighters are all needed—and every child is welcome to participate!

We are also looking for **adult volunteers** to help with costumes, assist during practices, and support the children on the evening of the pageant (which will be at 9:30 Christmas Eve. Your help will bring this beautiful tradition to life once again for our parish family.

If your child would like to participate or if you are able to volunteer, please sign up in the narthex or contact Fr. Stephen. More information about rehearsal dates will be provided soon. Thank you for helping us celebrate the joy of the Nativity!