

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 December 21st, 2025

Parish Rectory: (203) 743-1106

Church Hall: (203) 628-7997

Church: [stnicholasdanbury@icloud.com](mailto:stnicholasdanbury@icloud.com)

Father Stephen: [FrStephenRusso@gmail.com](mailto:FrStephenRusso@gmail.com)

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 Ann Devine, Dr David Fanning

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Saturday, Dec 20 — Anticipation Sunday of the Ancestors of Christ**

**4:00 PM** Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, New Britain  
Intention: For Vocations to Holy Orders

**Sunday, Dec. 21 — Sunday of the Ancestors of Christ**

**9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Danbury  
Intention: +Anna Devine, by Ann Devine

**Wed., Dec 24 — Christmas Eve**

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

Intention: Parishioners of Holy Trinity

**9:30 PM** Children's nativity pageant

**10:00PM** Great Compline with Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Danbury  
Intentions: The Children of our parishes

**Thursday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Day**

**10:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Danbury  
Intention: All our Parishioners

**Saturday, Dec 27th — Feast of the Holy First Martyr Stephen, Anticipation for Sunday  
Commemorating St. Joseph, St. James, King David.**

**3:00 PM** Holy Trinity, New Britain

Intention: All Parishioners of Holy Trinity

### **The Giving Trees: A very special Thank-you**

I want to extend a heartfelt THANK-YOU! to everyone who participated in the giving tree. And a very special Thank-you to Diane D'Addario-Billimoria who organized the whole project. We were able to collect many gifts for children in foster care, making their Christmas somewhat more joyful.

## **Our Tradition of Holy Supper on Christmas Eve**

In the Byzantine Catholic tradition of Eastern Europe, Christmas Eve is sanctified by the *Holy Supper*, a prayerful and fasting meal shared in anticipation of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. The family table becomes a place of blessing as the meal begins with prayer and the invocation of God's mercy. **Bread** is shared as a sign of Christ, the Bread of Life, and of God's providence for His people. **Honey** is tasted in thanksgiving for the sweetness of the Gospel and the joy of salvation. **Garlic**, though pungent, is received as a sign of God's protection, healing, and strength against all evil. Through these simple gifts, the faithful are reminded that the mystery of the Incarnation is first embraced in humility, fasting, gratitude, and trust in the Lord who comes to dwell among us. **"Come, for everything is now ready."**

— *Luke 14:17*

### **Here is a suggestion for a prayers to begin your Holy Supper**

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God,  
You who were born in humility  
and laid in a manger for our salvation,  
look upon this family and this table set in faith.

Bless this Holy Supper and these gifts of Your creation:  
the bread we share in thanksgiving for Your providence,  
the honey for the sweetness of Your Gospel,  
and the garlic for strength, healing, and protection.

Grant that as we fast in body,  
our hearts may be filled with Your light,  
our homes with peace,  
and our lives with love for one another.

For You are our God, and to You we give glory,  
together with Your eternal Father  
and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.



## December Birthdays

Charlie O'Boyle	December 1
Pamela Peña	December 9
Margaret Hrabcsak	December 12
Dicky Vira	December 16
Elena Weyant	December 19
Luke Weyant	December 21
Jack Weyant	December 26
Agnes Ferraro	December 26
Alicia Shiland	December 27
Lynda Streaman	December 27

May God Grant Them Many Happy And Blessed Years  
(If there are any missing or incorrect, please inform Fr. Stephen)

## Why the Church Proclaims the Genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1)

On the Sunday before the Nativity, the Church proclaims the Genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew to reveal the mystery of the Incarnation in all its depth and truth. By carefully naming each generation, the Gospel proclaims that the eternal Son of God truly assumed our human nature, entering history not in appearance, but in reality—born into a family, a people, and a lineage shaped by God’s saving promises.

The genealogy reveals Christ as the fulfillment of the covenant with Abraham and the royal line of David, confirming Him as the long-awaited Messiah foretold by the prophets. At the same time, it bears witness to God’s mercy at work through imperfect people and unexpected circumstances, showing that salvation unfolds through repentance, faith, and divine grace rather than human merit alone.

As these sacred names are proclaimed, the faithful are reminded that the birth of Christ is not a distant event, but the moment when God enters the fullness of human life to heal it from within. The genealogy invites each of us to place our own lives, families, and histories into God’s saving plan, trusting that through Christ, every generation is called to share in the blessing of salvation.

Thus, as the Church prepares to sing “Christ is born! Glorify Him!” the genealogy becomes a hymn in words—proclaiming that the God who transcends all ages has entered time itself, sanctifying every generation and opening the way to eternal life.

## Living Our Byzantine Heritage:

Our Byzantine Catholic Church is rich in beautiful traditions that express our faith and outwardly reveal what we believe in our hearts. These practices are not simply rituals of the past—they are living reminders of God’s presence and invitations to draw nearer to Him. Yet in today’s secular world, we may sometimes feel hesitant or discouraged from expressing our faith openly, and many of these treasures have quietly fallen out of use.

Beginning this week, I will be including short summaries of various Byzantine traditions and practices in our bulletin. I encourage you to rediscover and embrace them. I hope that, even in a small way, they will help you grow closer to Our Lord, deepen your love for the Most Holy Theotokos, and strengthen your relationship with the saints whose intercession accompanies us.

If you would like to learn more about any of these practices, please feel free to speak with me. It is a joy to share this beautiful heritage with you.

## Traditional greetings:

When I was growing up at the monastery, almost everyone who came in greeted each other with simple proclamation the beautiful proclamation inscribed above the main entrance of St. Nicholas Church:

During the majority of the year

**Glory to Jesus Christ!** The response **Glory Forever!**

At Christmas Time:

**Christ Is Born!** The response **Glorify Him!**

At Theophany (this is a newer greeting that was initiated by our ancestors in the US)

Christ Is Baptized! The response In the Jordan!

During Pascha:

**Christ is Risen!** The response Indeed **He Is Risen!**

And in a more personal setting when you are receiving an anointing or when a kiss is being exchanged:

**Christ Is Among Us!** The response **He Is and Always Will Be!**

## 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. It would be very nice to have some warm drinks and some desserts to share after the service. There will be a sign up sheet on the credence table in the back of the church**



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. **A rehearsal will be held after the Sunday Divine Liturgy in Danbury on Sunday December 21st.**

## Schedule for Christmas

December 24th Christmas Eve:

- 03:00 PM at Holy Trinity, Christmas Vigil Compline with Divine Liturgy
- 09:30 PM at St. Nicholas, The Children's Candle light Nativity Pageant
- 10:00 PM at St. Nicholas, Christmas Vigil Compline with Divine Liturgy

December 25th Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM at St. Nicholas Christmas Day Divine Liturgy

## Confession Schedule before Christmas

December 20th 01:30PM - 02:30PM at Holy Trinity

December 21st 07:00PM - 09:00PM at St. Nicholas

If you would like receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) before Christmas and cannot make one of those times, please contact Fr. Stephen to make an appointment.



## Envelopes & Calendars

The 2026 Envelopes are available for pick up and will be labelled with your family name. If you are unable to get them and would like them sent to you please get in touch with Fr. Stephen. The Calendars for 2026 will be available next week.