

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 28th, 2025

Parish Rectory: (203) 743-1106

Church Hall: (203) 628-7997

Church: stnicholasdanbury@icloud.com

Father Stephen: FrStephenRusso@gmail.com

Website: 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

Sunday, Dec. 28 — **Sunday After Christmas, St. Joseph, St. James, David the King**

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

Intention: +John Dliman, by Anna Petro

Thursday, Jan 1st — **Circumcision of Christ, Feast of St. Basil the Great**

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil at St. Nicholas, Danbury

Intention: +Adrienne Lyon

Saturday, Jan. 3 — **Anticipation of Sunday**

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

Intention: Michael Dzank by Ann Devine

Sunday, Jan. 4 — **Feast of the Holy Prophet Malachi**

9:00 AM St. Nicholas, Danbury, CT

Intention: +Nicholas Stroz by Ellen Stroz

The Giving Tree Update

29 Children in foster care received additional Christmas blessings because of the loving kindness of the parishioners of St. Nicholas and Holy Trinity parishes. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity. I also want to extend a special heartfelt THANK-YOU! to Diane D'Addario-Billimoria, who organized the whole project for all of us.

Short Stories for the Season:

After the Angels Were Silent

The shepherds returned to their fields after seeing the Child. The sky was quiet again, and the sheep still needed tending. Yet nothing was ordinary anymore—because Christ had been born, and they carried that wonder back into daily life. We need to meditate on how we balance our lives and realize that nothing is the same.

The Cold Stable

A child once asked why Jesus was born in the cold. His grandmother replied, “So no place would ever be too poor or too lonely for Him to enter.” Christmas does not end at the manger—it continues wherever humility makes room for God.

Joseph’s Hands

Saint Joseph’s hands were not empty after Christmas. They were busy—lifting, carrying, protecting, working. Holiness often begins when the feast is over and love must still be lived.

The Candle Still Burning

Days after Christmas, a woman left her Nativity candle lit a little longer each evening. “The light shouldn’t go out just because the feast has passed,” she said. Christ is born once, but He is carried daily.

The Road Home

Mary and Joseph did not remain at the manger. They packed, traveled, worried, and trusted. The road after Christmas teaches us that God walks with us not only in wonder, but also in uncertainty.

The Child Who Slept

The Child slept while the world continued in danger and noise. God’s peace entered the world quietly, trusting human love to guard it. Christmas reminds us that strength often looks like tenderness.

The Empty Church

After Christmas, the church grows quieter. But Ch The Gift That Remained

A man carefully put away decorations but left the manger on the table. “This is the gift that stays,” he said. Christ is not returned—He is received.

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)

Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord

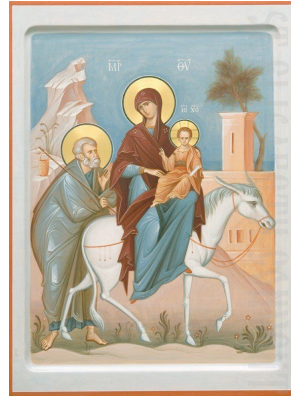
Prescribed Scripture Readings for Sunday Dec. 28th

Epistle: *Galatians 1:11–19*

Saint Paul bears witness that the Gospel comes not from human origin but from divine revelation. This prepares us to contemplate Christ's birth as part of God's eternal plan, revealed through history and fulfilled in His Son.

Gospel: *Matthew 2:13–23*

The Gospel recounts the Flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocents, and the return of the Holy Family to Nazareth. Even in infancy, Christ enters a world marked by suffering and exile, sanctifying obedience, family life, and trust in God amid danger.



Saints Commemorated Sunday Dec. 28th

On this Sunday, the Church honors those chosen to stand closest to Christ in His earthly life:

- **Joseph husband of Mary** – the righteous guardian of the Virgin and protector of the Child through faithful obedience
- **David the King** – the royal ancestor through whom God promised an everlasting kingdom
- **James called The Brother of the Lord** – first bishop of Jerusalem and witness to the life of Christ. James was likely a relative of Jesus. We do know definitely, he may have been a cousin or step-brother.

Troparion Theme (Sunday After Christmas)

The Troparion proclaims Christ's Nativity as the fulfillment of God's promises made through the righteous ancestors. It glorifies Joseph's obedience, David's royal lineage, and James' faithful witness, while proclaiming that Christ has come to save the world through humility and faithfulness across generations.

Kontakion Theme

The Kontakion draws attention to the mystery of God entering human history through a real family and lineage. It emphasizes that those who lived according to God's will—though imperfect—were sanctified by their closeness to Christ, and that through Him, all families and generations are called into salvation.

Living Our Byzantine Heritage:

“Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”

Throughout the Christmas season, Byzantine Christians greet one another with “Merry Christmas” and also with the proclamation “**Christ is born!**”, to which the response is “**Glorify Him!**” This greeting is a joyful confession of faith, reminding us that Christmas is not merely a memory, but a living mystery proclaimed in the present. By speaking these words to one another, we continue the Church's song of praise, bearing witness that the Savior has truly entered the world.

The Afterfeast of the Nativity

In the Byzantine tradition, Christmas is not celebrated for a single day, but unfolds over many days through the **Afterfeast of the Nativity**, which lasts until January 4. During this time, the Church continues to sing Christmas hymns, keep the icon of the Nativity prominently displayed, and reflect daily on the mystery of the Incarnation. This extended celebration teaches us that Christ's birth is too great to be confined to one day—it is a mystery to be lived, remembered, and deepened over time.



Theophany: The Fulfillment of Christmas

In the Byzantine tradition, the feast of **Theophany** (January 6) brings the celebration of Christ's Nativity to its fullness. At Christmas, Christ is revealed quietly in the humility of the manger; at Theophany, He is revealed openly at the Jordan as the Son of God. As Jesus is baptized, the voice of the Father is heard and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove, making manifest the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Together, Christmas and Theophany proclaim one saving truth: the Word who became flesh now sanctifies creation itself, calling all people to new life through water, light, and grace.

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 (details will be finalized shortly) along the edge of **Candlewood Lake** to bless the waters and proclaim the sanctification of all creation. We also welcome participation from our sister **Eastern Christian churches** as a sign of unity and shared faith. 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.

Miraculous Icon: Mary, Helper of Mothers" (Theotokos of Mukachevo)

Will visit our parish in January, which has been linked to answered prayers and miraculous births. The icon is a treasure of our Eparachy, **copied from the icon of Our Lady of Mukachevo**, A highly revered icon, especially for expectant mothers. We will have events open to the public and can use some help organizing and composing media announcements. Please see Fr. Stephen if you would like to help.



Envelopes & Calendars

The 2026 Envelopes are available for pick up and will be labelled with your family name. If you don't see your name and would like envelopes, please get in touch with Ann Devine or Fr. Stephen. The calendars for 2026 will be available by January 1st.

Bishop's Appeal

The 2025 Bishop's Appeal is a vital way that we, as one Church, support the mission and ministries of the Eparchy of Passaic. Through the generosity of the faithful, the Appeal provides essential resources that strengthen our parishes and serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of our clergy, seminarians, families, and those in need.

Gifts to the Bishop's Appeal help fund priestly formation, support retired and ill clergy, provide religious education and youth ministry, assist parishes with growth and outreach, and sustain the charitable works of our Eparchy. While each parish is unique, we all benefit from the stability, guidance, and shared resources made possible through the Appeal.

The 2025 Bishop's Appeal will run **through the end of our fiscal year, June 1, 2026**. Contributions received **prior to December 31, 2025** will count toward the **2025 tax year**, and acknowledgment letters for tax purposes will be **mailed before January 31, 2026**.

By supporting the Bishop's Appeal, we give witness to our unity as one Byzantine Catholic family and our shared responsibility for the life of the Church. Through prayer and generous giving, we help ensure that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed and Christ's love made present throughout our Eparchy—now and for generations to come.