

Welcome
Connecticut Deanery



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
414 Valley Street
Willimantic, Connecticut

March 11, 2012
Second Sunday of Great Lent

Welcome to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

We welcome our friends from the Connecticut Deanery who have traveled east to celebrate Lenten Vespers with our community this afternoon. It is a blessing to have you with us. Holy Trinity last hosted the Connecticut Deanery for Lenten Vespers in 2002.

Church Origins

The seeds of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church were first planted on August 16, 1916. A parcel of land, which sits at the intersection of Valley Street and Mansfield Avenue, was purchased in November, 1948. Soon thereafter a foundation was poured; yet because of financial limitations, a decade passed before the church was entirely constructed and consecrated. It has been reported the City of Willimantic strongly urged the community to finally build the church, or else ...

Current Location

On September 7, 1958, the final Divine Liturgy was held at 226 Valley Street, the site of the previous church. At the completion of the Divine Liturgy that day, many sacred items such as the gospel, icons, and banners and crosses, were carried in a solemn procession, led by Archpriest Ilja Adamov, to the new church at 414 Valley Street. Six days later, on September 13, 1958, Holy Trinity Church was consecrated by His Eminence, +Metropolitan LEONTY, of blessed memory. You will see examples of the previous iconography throughout the church and downstairs. Although it is not consistent with our current traditional Byzantine style iconography, it was important not to sever this historical link.

New Iconostasis

Our current iconostasis, and hand carved lime-wood frames, including the Royal Doors, was done by master iconographer +Mr George Goutsev (d. 5.25.2011) and his friend and neighbor, Mr Peter Nedkov, of Sofia, Bulgaria. It could not have been easier communicating with these two gentlemen, than if they lived in the next town over. There are other examples of +Mr Goutsev's work in our church, most notably the large icon of the Nativity of Our Lord, and Saint Xenia of Petersburg. Mr Nedkov also crafted a beautiful hand-carved wooden tabernacle which rests on our altar table.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)

The Student Information & Timeline of Church History Timeline Cards which are included with this small outline, were commissioned in August, 2011. We thank Mr. Tony W. Core of Columbus, Ohio, for his beautiful work. The intent of the cards were to help grow the parish; and to that end, it can be termed a very successful endeavor. Holy Trinity is currently in a state of God's grace as two families and several individuals have joined us over the past eight months. Holy Trinity also continues to receive strong support from the University of Connecticut's Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Several members of the OCF have been received in to the Orthodox Church at Holy Trinity since 2001.

2012 Activities

Our parish is very active in community outreach, most notably with the Willimantic Area Interfaith Ministry. It is hoped that Holy Trinity will host the WAIM Interfaith Service on November 18, 2012, and the Walk for Warmth that afternoon. We are currently awaiting final approval. A 6 x 9 Community Outreach Card will be produced for that event, which will highlight the various ministries Holy Trinity has been actively involved in over the past 10 years. Additionally, a Fall Harvest Festival will be held on October 20, 2012, the first event of this kind at Holy Trinity in over 15 years. Whatever profit is realized will be used to purchase new tables and chairs downstairs. We will also share a percentage of what we take in to continue to care for the needy, the hungry, and the marginalized in Windham County.

Church Website

Please be sure to visit our parish web site at www.orthodoxct.org. Pictures of the Connecticut Lenten Deanery Vespers will be posted within 24 hours. We ask your patience and understanding as our web master takes photos this afternoon. Our parish web site has become an object of great joy for us, and has been instrumental in our recent growth.

Finally, after Vespers please join us downstairs for some Lenten refreshments.

May God protect and keep you all wrapped in the arms of his warm embrace for all the days of your life.

– Fr Marc Vranes



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Vision 2012

Mission . Mercy . Ministry