

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Fr. Luke Mihaly

74 Joes Hill Road
Danbury, CT 06811
Rectory (203) 748-0671
Cell (203) 482-6223

PadreLuke@aol.com

www.holytrinitydanbury.org

Diocesan Website:
www.acrod.org



Today is the Thirty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle is Colossians 3:12-16. The Gospel is from Matthew 25:14-30. Cyrus & John.

Holy Trinity is a diverse and welcoming parish of the Carpatho Russian Diocese, under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, is our diocesan ruling hierarch.

Divine Liturgy is offered Sunday at 10 am. As reminder only those Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Everyone is invited downstairs following



Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour and Fellowship.

Come down and meet Fr. Luke and the parishioners.

Our parish offers many opportunities to pray, to study and learn more about Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church.

If you have any questions about the Orthodox Church, our Faith, or our parish please feel free to contact Fr. Luke. He is more than happy to meet with you and talk.

House Blessing	2
Monthly Food Sales	2
Prom Dress Project	2
Wild Game Dinner	2
Upcoming Events	3
Penny Social	3
Parish Dinner Out	3
Bake Sales	4

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Monday, February 1, 6 PM
– Prayer Group

Monday, February 1, 7 PM -
Spirituality Class

Tuesday, February 2, 8 AM
– Liturgy - Presentation

Tuesday, February 2, 9 AM
– Perogies

Wednesday, February 3, 7 PM
– Catechism Class

Thursday, February 4, 8:30 AM
– Akathist

Thursday, February 4, 4 PM to 7 PM
– Monthly Perogie Sale

Friday, February 5, 9:30 AM –
Old Testament Class

Saturday, February 6, 10 AM
– Retreat at St. George's

Saturday, February 6, 4 PM –
Vespers at St. George's

Sunday, February 7, 9 AM –
Church School

Sunday, February 7, 10 AM –
Liturgy

The Annual meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 31.

Parish Council Officers are as follows:

Susan Sulich - President
Harry Fong – Vice President
Monika Mihaly – Treasurer
Lorraine Fedyna – Secretary
Luke Mihaylo – Assistant Treasurer
Nicholas Fong, Luke Faubel and Christopher Mihaly – Member at Large

Readers Schedule

1/24 – Susan Sulich
1/31 – Sandi Fong
2/7 – Bob Faubel
2/14 – Jonathan McCormack
2/21 – Luke Mihaylo
2/28 – Susan Paltauf

Coffee Hour

1/24 – OPEN
1/31 – Bundra
2/7 – Villa
2/14 - Sulich

Help Re-stock Our Kitchen:
We are in need of 10-inch and 5-inch paper plates.

Deli Meat for Sale:

We have ham and muenster cheese for sale, \$4 per pound (available in ½ pound packages). See Susan Sulich during coffee hour if you wish to purchase any.

Game Dinner—

Our annual game dinner is set for Saturday, March 5th. We will need people to prepare game dishes, help set up, man the kitchen and clean up. We are also in need of raffle basket donations. This is a great event and a big fundraiser for our parish. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall. Tickets are \$30. See Fr. Luke for reservations.

Offering Envelopes | Roll Baking

Weekly Offering

Envelopes: Pick up your weekly offering envelopes for 2016 in the hall.

We will be getting together on Saturday, March 12th to make rolls for our upcoming Spring bake sales. Please let Sarah or Amy know if you are able to give some time that day.

Rollers, bakers and packagers all needed.

Catechism Class | Monthly Food Sales

Our ongoing catechism class which meets on Wednesday at 7 PM. Is taking this week off for Theophany. We are using the text: *The Living God* by Oliver Clement.

Monthly Food Sales: We have decided to open our freezers once a month (on non-bake sale months) to sell perogies, stuffed cabbage, rolls and any other good we have. We will have a sale the first Thursday of every month from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please spread the word to your Perogie-

loving friends! If you are interested in manning the sale, see Rodger Behrend or Susan Sulich.

House Blessings

Fr. Luke will be scheduling house blessings. Do not be afraid to call Father to schedule a time. Please keep your calendar open and flexible. Please have the following prepared:

- 1) Have a table or family icon corner set up with a white cloth, candle and a bowl for Holy Water.
- 2) Turn off televisions, radios, and stereos
- 3) Take the telephone off the receiver
- 4) Gather the family together
- 5) Do bring any items you want blessed and names of people for Father to remember at liturgy

like toys, which may cause Father to trip or fall.

2) A table should be prepared where an icon, a candle, a small bowl, holy water and a list of first

names of everyone you want Father to pray for during the service for their health. If you do not have Holy Water, please let Father know and he will bring a bottle of for you to keep.

3) If you have any small items, like crosses or icons, that you want blessed, place them on the table and let Father know.

4) Turn off all radios and TVs. Take the phone off the hook during the short blessing service. Cell phones should be turned off. Just remember to place the phone back on the hook and turn on

your cell phone at the end of the service.

5) Close all doors to rooms you do not want Father to enter -- open all doors and turn the lights on in the home, otherwise.

6) A family member should lead Father around the home during the blessing. Children may do this, girls or boys.

7) If you have a pet, they may also receive a blessing, but please keep them under control to prevent them from jumping on Father or getting under his feet.

8) I look forward to sharing this special blessing with you and your family. Many Years!!

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE BLESSING:

1) Your home does NOT have to be spotless, but should be free of clutter on the floor,

Clothing Drive | Orthodox Youth Mission Team

We are now collecting for our 4th clothing drive.

Next Sunday, January 31st from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. we will have our first training session here for our ASP mission trip to West Virginia set for July 9-17, 2016. Adult leaders will meet at 2:15 p.m. This year's team has

grown to 41 members, 6 crews, from 7 parishes in CT, NY, and NJ. Thanks to everyone who supported our Friendship Soup sale in December and for all the ongoing support to the team.

Penny Social

We have decided to postpone the Penny Social to April 3. Please continue to save items for this fundraiser and a new date will be announced. Our 1st Penny Social was a success mainly because of the quantity and quality of the donations. We will accept any item with a tag or in its original packaging. We are also looking for gently used collector's items including (but not limited to!) china, glassware, jewelry and home décor.

If you would like to help with this Penny Social or have any questions, please contact Kristen Szymanowicz at kszymano@gmail.com or 203.529.3144.

Prom Dress Project

Cheyenne River Youth Project Prom Dress Collection: We will be helping our friends on the Lakota reservation in South Dakota with a special collection of gowns, jewelry, make-up and accessories for teens to attend their high school prom. See the attached flyer for details. All items can be brought to the church.

Parish Dinner Out

Friday February 26th is a fast-free Friday—let's go out to dinner! Chuck's Steakhouse in Danbury is offering us a private room and the following menu: Your choice of Prime Rib, New York Strip, Grilled Lemon, Teriyaki, Dijon Chicken, Vegetarian or Seafood Entrée. Also includes baked potato, bread and salad bar, coffee or tea. Price \$27 per person (includes gratuity). Make reservations with Susan Sulich by Feb. 21st.

Birthdays

January	
Kate Kerpchar	27
Connie Somoskovec	30
February	
Leon Guerrero	1
Jerry Kachevsky	5
Emily Varney	13
Rob & Andrea Paltauf Anniversary	14
Kristina Bundra	20

The Reverend Dr. John Chryssavgis, archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, will speak at the **33rd Annual Father Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture**, Sunday, January 31, 2016, 7 p.m. on "Toward the Great and Holy Council: Retrieving a Culture of Conciliarity and Consensus," at **St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary**, 575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707, svots.edu

Upcoming Events

Annual Parish Meeting –
Sunday, January 31

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
– Friday, March 4

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Meeting - Sunday, January 31

Wild Game Dinner –
Saturday, March 5

Monthly St. Nectarios Service:
Thursday, February 18th

Roll Baking – Saturday,
March 12th

OYMT Meeting Bridgeport –
Sunday, February 21st

First Easter Bake Sale –
Saturday, March 19 to
Sunday, March 20

Parish Dinner Out at Chuck's Steakhouse – Friday, February 26th

Second Easter Bake Sale –
Saturday, April 16

Mardi Gras Dinner Dance St. John's Bridgeport - February 27th

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“... a place of refuge full of love and joy.”



We're on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org

[Elder Thaddeus: We think we know a lot . . .](#)

We think we know a lot, but what we know is very little. Even all those who have striven all their life to bring progress to mankind — learned scientists and highly educated people — all realize in the end that all their knowledge is but a grain of sand on the seashore. All our achievements are insufficient.

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, [Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives](#)

[St. Paisios: Be the Bee and not the Fly](#)

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, “Good and Evil Thoughts,” [Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle](#)

Easter Bake Sales

We will have two bake sales this spring because the Easters are so far apart. The dates of the sales are March 19-20th and April 16th. We have already begun our perogie sessions. Rolls, cookies, stuffed cabbage and kielbasa coming soon. Please plan to give some time as you are able. We are also

looking for crafters for the March sale. If anyone in the parish would like to reserve a table see Susan Sulich. If you know of any crafters who make quality, hand-crafted artisan items, encourage them to participate. Tables are \$35.