

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Epistle is 2 Timothy 3:10-15. The Gospel is from Luke 18:10-14. Timothy of Symbola.

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.

Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, February 21, 3 PM – 5 PM – ASP Meeting St. John's Bridgeport	Friday, February 26, 6:30 PM – Parish Dinner out at Chuck's Steakhouse
Monday, February 22, 6 PM – Prayer Group	Saturday, February 27, 5 PM – Vespers
Monday, February 22, 7 PM - Spirituality Class	Sunday, February 28, 9 AM – Church School – Youth/Teens
Tuesday, February 23, 8:30 AM – First Hour	Sunday, February 28, 10 AM – Liturgy
Tuesday, February 23, 9 AM – Perogies	Sunday, February 28, 11:30 AM – Church School – Children
Thursday, February 25, 8:30 AM – Akathist	
Friday, February 26, 9:30 AM – Old Testament Class	

Readers Schedule

2/21 – Luke Mihaylo
2/28 – Susan Paltauf
3/6 – Harry Fong
3/13 – Sandi Fong

Coffee Hour

2/21 – Faubel
2/28 – Behrend
3/6 - Fong
3/13 - Faubel

Help Re-stock Our Kitchen:
We are in need of 10-inch and 5-inch paper plates, Disinfecting Wipes and Dishwashing Soap.

Monthly Food Sales: We had our first monthly food sale this past Thursday and sold over \$100 worth of food and gained a new customer. Thank you to those who manned the sale. The monthly sales will take place on the first Thursday of the month from 4pm to 7pm in months when we do not have bake sales. The next one will be on Thursday, May 5th. Please see Rodger if you are able to come and man the sale—we need two people for each session.

Lunch meat available: ham, turkey and Swiss cheese in the kitchen. \$4.00 per pound.

Offering Envelopes | Roll Baking

Weekly Offering

Envelopes: Pick up your weekly offering envelopes for 2016 in the hall. WE will collect all the Pledge Forms on Sunday, March 5 unless you hand them in beforehand.

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

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.

Game Dinner

Our annual **Wild 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.

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 | Easter Bake Sales

We are now collecting for our 4th clothing drive.

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.

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.

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, Portobello Mushroom Ravioli or Pasta Primavera, Baked Stuffed Scrod. Also includes baked potato, bread and salad bar, coffee or tea. Price \$27 per person (includes gratuity). If you wish to

bring children, they will be allowed to order off the children's menu. Meals range from \$6.00 -- \$8.00 for children. Make reservations with Susan Sulich by Feb. 21st.

Upcoming Events

OYMT Training Session –
Sunday February 21st, at St. John's Bridgeport 3-5 p.m.

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

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

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen –
Friday, March 4

Wild Game Dinner – Saturday, March 5

Roll Baking – Saturday, March 12th

Forgiveness Sunday -
March 13

Knitting Group - Sunday
March 13th

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

Second Easter Bake Sale –
Saturday, April 16

Birthdays

February	
Rob & Andrea Paltauf Anniversary	14
Kristina Bundra	20

Knitting Group: Our knitting group will be starting up again on the second Sunday of the month immediately following coffee hour. First get together will be next Sunday, February 14th. All ages and experience levels welcome. If you would like to learn to knit, see Suad for a list of supplies to bring and if you have any questions.

New England Deanery Women's Lenten Retreat: We will be hosting an overnight women's retreat on March 25-26 at Camp Hi-Rock in Mt. Washington, MA. Details are in the attached flyer. Cost is \$85 per person which includes overnight accommodations, and 3 meals. Please let Susan Sulich know if you are interested in attending. We need to send in our reservation by February 22nd. Payment due by March 13th.

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



We're on the Web!
holytrinitydanbury.org

I. Monk Ephraim

In the year of 1425 a monk was taken captive and tortured to death in his monastery in Greece for being a Christian. He was slowly tortured to death over a period of a year. After each episode his wounds were allowed to heal, and then he was subjected to new and worse punishments. Finally they executed him. He was hung upside down from a tree in his monastery grounds and run through with a pole which had been sharpened to a point and set on fire. All traces of his life and martyrdom were forgotten until this century, when he appeared to the abbess of a convent and told her of his life and sufferings. He also revealed the spot where his bones, which had never decomposed, were buried. They dug up the bones for the glory of God.

II. The Addict and the Saint

Some years later an American teenager in the Midwest was grappling with his own life. He was heavily using drugs (cocaine and heroin) and was quickly sliding to destruction. He had neither a stable family life nor a religious upbringing, and though still young was in serious trouble.

One night an ugly old man appeared to him and said, "I am your friend, I want to make an appointment with you to meet me." He directed him to get into his car and drive as quickly as he could down a certain road which had a hairpin turn at the end with a sheer cliff at the bend. The young man did as he was told, got into his car and drove as fast as he could down the road. Losing his nerve at the last minute he managed to slam on his brakes and barely made the turn. He arrived home shaken.

Two nights later, the old man appeared again and said with anger and indignation, "I am very disappointed that you didn't meet me. Get into your car again and drive as fast as you can and this time don't put on the brakes." The young man felt strangely compelled to do this. Once again he got into his car, drove as fast as he could and this time didn't stop but drove at high speed off the cliff. The car was demolished but, surprisingly, he escaped with only cuts and bruises, and with a concussion.

A few weeks after he was out of the hospital, the ugly man appeared to him once again and said, "I am furious with you for not keeping our appointment. Tonight without fail you will meet me! Put a double dose of the drug in your needle." Again the boy felt compelled to do this, and after injecting himself went into a coma from the overdose. He was taken to the hospital where doctors told his family that he probably wouldn't live. And if by chance he did live he would only be semi-conscious - in a vegetative state. There was almost no chance of recovery. In two weeks, however, the young man did awake, fully conscious. He told those around him that he had seen a man which looked like some sort of radiant monk. He came to him and said, "I have been praying for you.... God has given you another chance. You will live, but you must correct your life. You are to go to Greece so as to visit the resting place of my bones, giving thanks to God for your salvation. My name is Ephraim.

O Holy Martyr Ephraim, look with compassion upon my distress and, as thou didst deliver the young man from his cruel addiction, so also pray for me that our Lord and Saviour, for Whom thou didst witness unto death, may deliver my soul from captivity to Satan. For I am in cruel bondage and suffering because of my weakness and sinfulness. Beseech our merciful Lord that, as He didst lead the Hebrews forth from slavery in Egypt and called His people out of Babylon, as He delivered the youth from the demon, and freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, and healed the woman taken in adultery and restored the Samaritan woman, that He may also set me free and deliver me from the demon of addiction***. I confess that I have fallen into this evil through my own slothfulness and weakness, but have mercy and pray for me, O saint and martyr of God.

***Note: that this could potentially be changed based on whatever one's specific need might be, e.g. depression, disease, passion, etc.