

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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

Camp Nazareth:
<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

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Family Day	2
Church School	2
Icon of Inexhaustible Cup	2
Dorothy Day Collections	2
Ornament Exchange	2
Parish Christmas Card	2
A Christmas Carol	3
New Years Dance	3
Holiday Craft & Bake Sale	3
For the Children	4

Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ. The Epistle is Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Daniel the Stylite.

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, December 11, 11:30 AM – Church School

Sunday, December 10, 3 PM – OYMT/Mary Kay Fundraiser

Sunday, December 10, 12 noon – Parish Council Meeting

Monday, December 12, 7 PM – Spirituality Class

Tuesday, December 13, 8:30 AM – Hours

Tuesday, December 13, 10:30 AM - Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 14, 7 PM – Adult Catechism Class

Thursday, December 15, 8:30 AM – Akathist

Thursday, December 15, 7 PM – St. Nectarios Anointing Service

Friday, December 16, 9:30 AM – Old Testament Class

Friday, December 16, 6:30 PM – Ladies Ornament Exchange at Susan Sulich's home

Saturday, December 17, 3:30 PM – Video Class

December 17, 5 PM – Vespers

December 17, 7 PM – A Christmas Carol featuring our own Ava Baroody

December 17, 6 PM to 11 PM – The Gross Family Party

Sunday, December 11, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Readers Schedule

12/11 – Susan Paltauf
12/18 – Nick Fong
12/25 – Paul Toaso
1/1 – Bob Faubel

Coffee Hour

12/11 – OPEN
12/18 – OPEN
12/25 – Christmas Day
1/1 – New Year's Day

Help Re-stock Our Kitchen:

Paper towels and 10-inch paper plates.

Alcoholism and Addiction | Parish Family Day | Church School

The **Akathist Service to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup** has proven to be a great help to all those who know someone or who themselves are struggling with alcoholism and addiction. We at Holy Trinity have quietly started serving the Akathist to the Icon of the Mother of God of the Inexhaustible Cup. If you are interested in attending the service please see Fr. Luke. This service is open to all parishioners. Look here for our next service. Monday, December 19, 12 noon.

Our next **Family Night** will be Wednesday Dec. 28th. With a visit to the Titans Hockey Game at the Danbury Ice Arena

Church School meets on Sundays. Elementary school students will meet immediately after Divine Liturgy. Fr. Luke will be talking to the parents of the high school students to work on a schedule to meet outside of Sunday.

Woodpecker Food

Woodpecker Food: Our woodpeckers are running out of food. Donations of suet cakes (regular size) would be greatly appreciated

Parish Christmas Card

Christmas card — Today is the last day to sign up for the Parish Christmas card. If you are not at liturgy and want to be on the card, please email Susan Sulich the way you would like your name or your family's name printed on our card. Voluntary donations towards the printing and postage are greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Day Collection

Dorothy Day Collection: We will be collecting men and women's socks, hats and gloves for Dorothy Day during Advent. These are items that are always in short supply during the winter months. A box will be placed in the vestibule of the church and we will bring all the items collected the soup kitchen when we serve in January.

Ladies Ornament Exchange | CrossRoads Scholarship | Prayer Group

Ladies Ornament Exchange: On Friday, December 16th starting at 6:30 p.m. there will be an Ornament Exchange at Susan Sulich's house (81 Rita Dr., New Fairfield, CT). Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange. R.S.V.P. to Susan ([203-746-6008](tel:203-746-6008)/ssulich@yahoo.com) by 12/12.

The Diocese and a donor are providing scholarships for tuition and travel for two diocesan 11th and 12th grade students to attend the CrossRoad Summer Institute held at Holy Cross/Hellenic College in Brookline, MA.

CONTACT: Fr. Miles at 814-467-7444 or Frmiles@gmail.com by December 22nd, 2016 to apply, or for more information regarding this opportunity.

Prayer Group—Our Prayer Group is now meeting on Tuesday mornings, immediately following services. We are currently reading "Courage to Pray" by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom and George Lefebvre. In this class we are learning about prayer, personal and intercessory, and it is an opportunity to share some of the struggles and encouraging parts of our prayer lives.

Shop for a Cause

Shop for a Cause—on Sunday December 11th there will be a Mary Kay Holiday Event at Holy Trinity from 4:00-8:00 p.m. There will be gifts for everyone on your list as well as the latest holiday make up looks and skin care products. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Orthodox Youth Mission Team summer trip to Alaska with OCMC this summer.

OYMT Fundraiser

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Holiday Fundraiser—The OYMT is selling soup and cookie mix jars as a fundraiser for our mission trip to Alaska this summer. Jars are festively decorated and cost \$8. They make great Christmas gifts! Your ongoing support of our team is greatly appreciated.

New Year's Dance

New Year's Dance—Save the Date: Saturday, January 14th we will be having our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. Plan to get a table with your parish family and friends and celebrate the New Year together. Stay tuned for more details!

Birthdays

December	
Chrissanth Gross	22
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

Knitting Group: Our knitting group will be meeting certain Sundays, immediately following coffee hour. 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.

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting – Sunday December 11th following liturgy

Wednesday, December 21, 12 noon - Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup

New Year's Dance —Saturday, January 14th

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Mary Kay Fundraiser – Sunday December 11th 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve – Compline Service – Saturday, December 24 - 7 PM

Choir Workshop — Sunday, January 22nd 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Ladies Ornament Exchange – Friday, December 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day - Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training Session — Sunday, January 22nd 4:00-6:00 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol" – Saturday, December 17th

Titans Hockey Family Night Out – December 28

Myrrh Streaming Icon Visit — Friday, January 27th

Dorothy Day — Friday, January 6, 2017 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting — Sunday, January 29, 2017

Christmas Craft and Bake Sales | A Christmas Carol

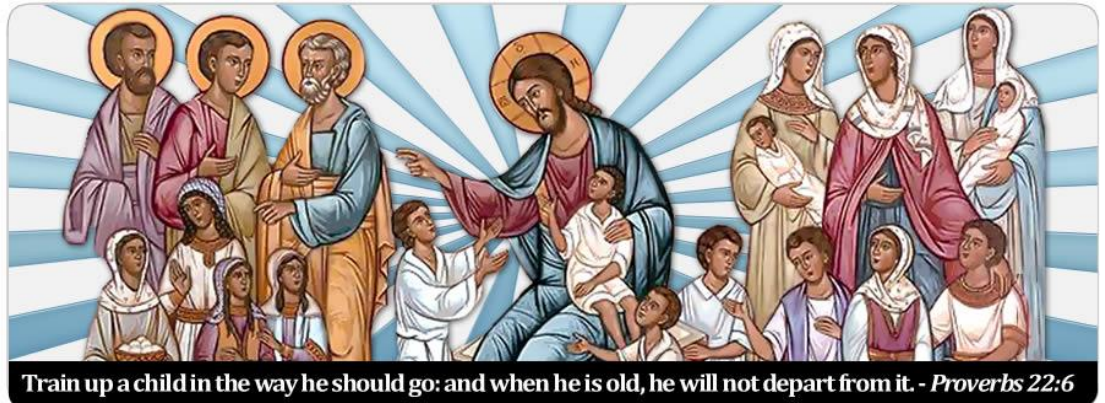
Christmas Bake and Craft Sale— Thank you to everyone who helped roll, bake, pinch, stuff, make kielbasa, advertise, set up and man our Christmas Craft and Bake sale. Yesterday was a very successful day. There are still some items for sale and our craft vendors will be here today for parishioners to shop.

Church School Trip to See "A Christmas Carol"—On Saturday, December 17th we will be going to see "A Christmas Carol" starring our very own Ava Baroody as the Ghost of Christmas Past. Show time is 7 PM and the cost of tickets range from \$26 to \$18 for Adults to \$12 for kids under 12. Let Stasia or Fr. Luke know if you wish to attend and how many tickets you will need.

For the Children

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



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - Proverbs 22:6

When you look around your church, what do you see? Does everybody look the same? Do you look the same as everybody else?

No, probably not, and that’s exactly what we hear about today in the epistle reading. Saint Paul tells us that we have to remember that Christians are Christians. We try not to find differences among us within the Church. He writes, “Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.” Lots of those words we might not know, but Saint Paul wants to tell us to stop finding differences among us within the Church. We are all one, together in Christ!

Now, look around your church again. You might know some kids who were baptized as Orthodox Christians as babies, and you might know another kid who was just baptized last week! You might know some poor Christian and you might know a rich one. You might know a Greek and you might know a German. In the epistle today, Saint Paul urges us all to stop seeing divisions within the Church community. Remember, he writes, “Christ is all, and in all!”

SAINT LUCIA: A SAINT WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

In just a week or so, we will have the darkest day of the year. The days grow shorter and shorter and the nights grow longer and longer, all until December 21st, the day with the shortest daylight hours. Sometimes people start to feel sad during these long, dark winter days. Most people like being in the light. Do you?

We have another kind of light too, of course. It’s the light of Christ, and when we grow close to Christ, we can start to see real happiness and joy.

On Tuesday, we celebrate the feastday of Saint Lucia (or Lucy). Her name even means “light,” and she really was a saint who was close to Christ. Lucia lived in Italy, and she came from a wealthy family. She was supposed to marry a rich man, who happened to be a pagan (he worshipped idols). Lucia didn’t want to marry him, because she was a Christian and they didn’t have much in common. She wanted to spend her life growing close to the light, to Christ!

Lucia was punished for refusing to marry this man. She was even killed because she wouldn’t change her mind. But now, she lives in the light of heaven, with Christ Himself!

Christians all over the world love Saint Lucia, especially people in the country of Sweden. Winters are very long and dark there, and people celebrate with beautiful Saint Lucia parties and processions.

We celebrate the feastday of Saint Lucia on Tuesday, December 13th.

We’re on the Web!

holytrinitydanbury.org