

# 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](mailto:PadreLuke@aol.com)

[www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard>

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Camp Nazareth:

<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

<http://www.ancientfaith.com/>

## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

Today is the Sunday before the Nativity. The Epistle 2 Timothy 4:5-8. The Gospel is from mark 1:1-8. Venerable Melania.

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 31, 10 AM**  
– Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, January 2, 8:30 AM**  
– Hours

**Wednesday, January 3, 7 PM**  
– Catechism Class

**Thursday, January 4, 8:30 AM**  
– Akathist

**Thursday, January 4, 9:30 AM**  
– Prayer Group

**Friday, January 5 – Strict Fast Day for Theophany**

**Friday, January 5, 9 Am** – Old Testament Class

**Friday, January 5, 1 PM to 5 PM** – Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

**Friday, January 5, 7 PM** - Vigil for Theophany

**Saturday, January 6, 9 AM** – Divine Liturgy - Feast of Theophany

**Saturday, January 6, 5 PM** – Vespers

**January 7, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Church School             | 2 |
| Icon of Inexhaustible Cup | 2 |
| Church School             | 2 |
| New Years Dance           | 2 |
| Envelopes                 | 2 |
| Upcoming events           | 3 |
| House Blessings           | 3 |
| Advent Collections        | 3 |
| CrossRoads                | 4 |

## Readers Schedule

12/31 – Harry Fong  
1/7 – Christopher Mihaly  
1/14 – Suzanne Molineaux

## Coffee Hour

12/31 – OCMC  
1/7 – Suad & Roger  
1/14 - Young

**Help restock our Kitchen:** decaf coffee.

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site [www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org)

And to those with a Facebook accounts please like our Facebook page posts associated with the fundraising events here <https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

**Coffee Hour** - We need people to sign up for coffee hour. As a reminder, coffee hour need not be elaborate. Bagels or rolls and butter are fine or anything simple. Consider signing up with someone else to make it easier.

**Mary Kay Open House to Benefit OYMT**—the holiday Mary Kay sale to benefit OYMT will continue today during coffee hour. Please check out the great variety of beautifully wrapped gifts for everyone on your list. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

## Alcoholism and Addiction

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.

## New Rectory

Great progress is being made in the building of the **new rectory**. We have passed the permitting stage and the old rental property will be demolished within the next couple of weeks. The new rectory is already in production with Westchester Modular and could be set on the property as early as the end of December. Only \$50,000 remains to be raised to complete the rectory. If donations come in to cover the final amount we will not need to use the line of credit to finish the project. Stay tuned for updates and if you haven't already done so, subscribe to our website: [www.holytrinitydanbury.org](http://www.holytrinitydanbury.org) to see construction photos and updates..

## New Year's Dinner Dance

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Plans are underway for our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. It will take place on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and tickets will be \$35 per person which will include dinner (BYOB) and music and entertainment by our favorite DJ, Bill Lopez. Invite your friends and plan to come and enjoy the evening. To reserve tickets or a table of 8 or 10, see Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich.

## OYMT 2018

**Orthodox Youth Mission Team 2018**— If you have not given Susan Sulich your paperwork and deposit please bring to the meeting. We have the largest group ever going from our parish and we welcome all our new team members. It is not too late to sign up. The trip is scheduled for July 7-16<sup>th</sup> and training sessions will begin in January. If you have questions about OYMT see Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich.

## Dorothy Day

**Dorothy Day**—We will be cooking and serving the meal at Dorothy Day on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 p.m. If you are able to serve, let Susan Sulich know. New servers are always welcome including our home from college and high school students.

## Envelopes

**Envelopes**—If you use envelopes for your pledge/collection please pick them up in the church hall. All those who had envelopes last year should have a box with your name on it. If anyone else would like envelopes we have extras. Just let Luke or Roz Mihaylo know what number is on your box.

## Prayer Group

**Prayer Group**--Our prayer group class meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This week we will be starting a new book: Churchianity vs. Christianity by Met. Anthony Bloom. All our welcome!

## Perogie Sessions Starting

**Perogie Sessions Starting Back Up**—We will resume making perogies for our Easter Bake Sale on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Hours service (about 9:00 a.m.). New pinchers always welcome, no prior experience necessary!

## Trip to Slovakia

—We are working to put together a parish trip to Slovakia for August 2018. We have been in contact with Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky who did an excellent job planning and making arrangements for our trip to Greece and Macedonia. Please let Fr. Luke know as soon as possible if you plan to go on the trip.

Support OYMT | Advent Collection for Dorothy Day | Christmas Decorations and Tree

**Help Support the Orthodox Youth Mission Team**—OYMT has made soup mix and hot cocoa jars that are beautifully packaged and ready for holiday gift giving. Jars are for sale in the hall. The cost is \$8. Please help our youth fund their ASP trip this summer. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**Advent Collection for Dorothy Day**—We will be collecting new hats, gloves and socks for men, women and children to donate to Dorothy Day throughout the Advent season. All items can be left in the box at the back of the church. Hats, gloves and socks are in high demand and greatly appreciated during the winter months. We will plan to bring all donated items to the soup kitchen when we serve there on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup>. Next Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, will be the last day to bring in socks, hats and gloves for Dorothy Day.

**Thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield and Paul Sulich**—Thanks is extended to Bill and Stella Woodfield who have quietly been decorating our parish for Christmas. It is truly a work of beauty.

Birthdays

| January             |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Andres Villa        | 1  |
| Adam Varney         | 2  |
| Pablo Gabriel Villa | 3  |
| James Kavallines    | 10 |
| Eric Evans          | 13 |
| Nicholas Huott      | 18 |
| Kate Kerpchar       | 27 |
| Connie Somoskovec   | 30 |

## Upcoming Events

**Charitable Coffee Hour to Benefit OCMC**—Sunday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

**Monthly St. Nectarios Service**—Thursday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

**OYMT Training Session**—Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 3:00-5:00 (Adult leaders 5:00-6:00)

**Dorothy Day**—Friday Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**Annual Parish Meeting**—Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> following liturgy

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

## 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

**PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE BLESSING:**

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

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"... a place of refuge full of love and joy."



**Donations**—Going forward we would like to institute a new policy regarding donations of items to the church. While we are very grateful that parishioners want to offer the church items that might be useful, we have a limited amount of space. As we try to reorganize the hall and maximize the storage space that we have available we ask you to go through our new Donations Coordinator, Elaine Toaso, if you wish to donate something to the church. Please speak to Elaine ([elaine.toaso@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.toaso@gmail.com)) before bringing any items in and she will be able to tell you (or find out from the parish council) if the items can be utilized. Thank you!

The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **2018 CrossRoad** program. CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Participants from all over the country come together to experience daily worship, take theology classes from some of the best professors in the country, visit local parishes, serve their neighbor, tour the city, and even spend a day at the beach. Historically, CrossRoad has been hosted solely on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross. This year, we are excited to announce that CrossRoad is expanding to Chicago! This summer, there will be a third session offered on the campus of North Park University in Chicago, IL.

CrossRoad Chicago is the same program, run by the same staff, in a brand new location! The sessions are as follows: Session 1 - June 16 – June 26 (Boston) Session 2 July 2 – July 12 (Boston) Session 3 - July 21 – July 31 (Chicago)

Scholarships covering the registration and tuition fee will be available to our Diocesan students who apply and are accepted to any one of the three sessions.

Diocesan Students interested in attending are asked to apply to the program before the February 1, 2018 Deadline. Upon acceptance, students are kindly asked to contact Fr. Stephen Lopusky, Diocesan Director of Youth at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or 724-662-4840.

### For the Children

**Have you ever gotten a message?** A letter, a phone call, an email, a text message? Was it a good message, or was it something you didn't want to hear? What did you think of the news you received?

Just this week, we will celebrate the great feastday of Theophany, when our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by Saint John. Today in the Gospel, we hear a little bit about Saint John and the message he brought to all the people.

The Gospel tells us, "As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" These words were written hundreds of years before Christ came to earth, but when we read these words, we know God's plan!

God planned to send a messenger before our Lord, Jesus Christ, came. Do you know who that messenger is? It's Saint John! Saint John was the messenger who brought the best message—the message that the Lord is coming!

This week, when we celebrate the wonderful feast, let's remember God's big plan, and His messenger, Saint John, who brought the news!

### HOW DO WE CELEBRATE THEOPHANY?

**Orthodox Christians celebrate Theophany on January 6th.** On this day, we hold a special service called the "Blessing of the Waters." If you go to church, you can drink a little of the holy water. The priest will give you a little bottle of holy water to take home with you, too. Along with this wonderful tradition in the church, here are some other ways that Orthodox Christians celebrate this great feast!

In Greece, Bulgaria, and Cyprus, the priest throws a cross into the water. Lots of people jump into the cold water. Whoever brings it back first is said to get a special blessing for the year.

In Romania, people compete in a big horse race! The priest blesses the horse riders with holy water, and then they are off! Afterwards, everyone celebrates the feast together.

In Russia, it is very cold in the winter. But that doesn't stop people from jumping in icy water. In some places, people cut a hole in the ice in the shape of a cross. Then people jump in.

On Theophany, thousands and thousands of Orthodox Christians visit the place where Jesus was baptized. They go to the Jordan River, near the city of Jericho. Some people who want to be baptized do so on this holy day.

But the best way to celebrate is by going to church, thanking God for giving us the Holy Spirit and His Son, Jesus Christ!

**We celebrate Holy Theophany on Saturday, January 6th (Jan, 19 OC).**

We're on the Web!

[holytrinitydanbury.org](http://holytrinitydanbury.org)