

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



## Fr. Luke Mihaly

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

<https://www.facebook.com/htocdanbury/?ref=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 Nativity. The Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. The Gospel is from Matthew 1:1-25. Ten Martyrs of Crete.

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

His Eminence, Metropolitan 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 23, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 24, 9 AM** – Royal Hours

**Monday, December 24, 5:30 PM** – Holy Supper – Covered Dish – This is a Day of Strict Fasting

**Monday, December 24, 7 PM** – Christmas Eve Services and the singing of Christmas Carols

**Tuesday, December 25, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy – Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

**Wednesday, December 26, 9 AM** – Divine Liturgy – Synaxis of the Mother of God

**Thursday, December 27, 9 AM** – Divine Liturgy – First Martyr and Deacon Stephen

**Friday, December 28, 6:30 PM** – Ladies Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 29, 3 PM** – Parish Christmas Party Games Night

**Saturday, December 29, 5 PM** – Vespers

**Saturday, December 29, 6 PM** – Parish Christmas Party, Pot luck. Fun, games and dance

**Sunday, December 30, 10 AM** – Divine Liturgy

There is **No Fasting and No Kneeling** from December 25 to January 5.

May the peace of the Christ-Child find a place within your hearts and home this Nativity Season and all the days of your life! Our prayers for a blessed Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord! – **Fr. Luke and Pani Bethany**

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## Readers Schedule

12/23 – Susan Paltauf  
12/25 – Christopher Mihaly

## Coffee Hour

12/23 – OPEN  
12/30 – OPEN

## Help Re-stock Our Kitchen—

decaf coffee, sturdy 10-inch paper plates, bowls

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/htodanbury/?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.

**Food Safety Courses**—We will be looking to update our food safety certifications to meet new Health Department regulations. If you are interested in taking a half day food handler safety class please let Susan Sulich know.

## New Address for:

Ken and Diana Borsari  
13 Hilltop Road  
Katonah, NY 10536

## Parish Christmas Party | Clothing Drive

### Parish Christmas

**Party**—Let's continue the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with a parish dinner on Saturday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> in our hall after Vespers at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and a game if you'd like. We'll have music and some fun together! Please see Nicu for more details.

### Clothing Drive – A BIG –

**HUGE – THAK YOU** to Ann Huott and the ENTIRE Huott Family for heading up and Clothing Drive. We collected over 200 bags of clothes. Please hold all donations for our next drive. Many thanks to Ann Huott and her family for continuing to run this very profitable fundraiser for our parish! \$420.07 was raised from the clothing drive!

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## Adult Education Opportunities

We have a number of adult education classes going on currently:

**Spirituality Class** – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Currently reading and discussing: *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Dr. Philip Mamalakis

**Catechism Class** – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. For those studying to come into the Church and those in the Church who want to deepen their understanding and participation in the Faith. We are starting a new Book. It is *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

**New Testament** – Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. currently were are reading and studying *The Acts of the Apostles*

**Old Testament Class** – Fridays at 9:00 a.m. We have begun Joshua.

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## OYMT

**OYMT Holiday Pie Sale**—the Orthodox Youth Mission Team will be selling unbaked apple pies just in time for all your holiday celebrations. Pies are \$12 and come with baking instructions. If you would like to pre-order or buy a pie, see one of the OYMT team members: Grace Radcliff, Nataly and Adrien Guerrero, AJ Villa, Jacob, Anthony and Martin Villa and Luke Faubel. There is still time to join OYMT for 2019. If interested, please see Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich.

## | Ladies Christmas Party

**Ladies Christmas Party**—All the ladies of the parish are invited to a Christmas get together on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. at Susan Sulich's home, 81 Rita Dr., New Fairfield, CT 06812. R.S.V.P. to Susan. Bring a wrapped item you'd like to give away for a "White Elephant" swap if you wish.

## Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series Launches

Our Diocese is pleased to announce a series of **Parenting Workshops** designed to help parents raise their children in the Faith. The title of the series is "Raising Believing Children" and will focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church in a world that is filled with doubt and most often works against their Faith. The Workshops are for parents of any age – you're never too old to be a son or daughter, and likewise you're never too old to be a parent! This series of Parenting Workshops will be hosted

by different Churches and Deaneries around our Diocese starting in March 2019. The first Workshop in the Series will be hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Rockaway, NJ on March 2, 2019. The first will feature His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa and Very Rev. Stephen Lopusky as presenters and workshop facilitators. Each workshop will be broadcast live online and will be archived for later viewing as well, and will include both presentations and small group moderated discussions to allow participants to help each other in their lives as parents. This is an exciting

and important endeavor. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory invites you to join him in support of parents as our Diocese launches this initiative to help them in their parental vocation.

For more information and to register for the first Workshop, or if you would like to host a Parenting Workshop, visit our Diocesan Website- [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series logo.

Birthdays	
December	
Chrissanth Gross	22
Alex Sirak	22
Marty Howley	26
Elaine Toaso	30

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Save the Date! On Saturday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual New Year's Dinner Dance. Put the date on your calendar and invite friends and family to come celebrate the New Year at this festive party with your parish family! More details to come.

**Mary Kay Fundraiser for OYMT**—Pani Bethany will again be offering a holiday Mary Kay fundraiser to benefit the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. 35% of all proceeds will go to OYMT. The fundraiser will run through the holidays. Contact Pani Bethany for a shopping appointment if you are unable to attend the open house or place your order online at [www.marykay.com/bmihaly](http://www.marykay.com/bmihaly).

## Upcoming Events

**Ladies Christmas Party**—Friday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. at Susan Sulich's home.

**Dorothy Day**—Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1-5 p.m.

**New Year's Dinner Dance**—Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Meeting**—Sunday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following liturgy

## New Parish Directory | Christmas Decorations

**New Parish Directory**—At long last, we have an updated parish directory available. Hard copies will be available in the church hall. If you want a digital copy, please email Susan Sulich at [ssulich@yahoo.com](mailto:ssulich@yahoo.com). Many thanks to Pani Bethany, Paul Sulich and Ana Melnic for all the help getting the new directory together.

You have probably noticed over the last few weeks the beautiful change within the church. Every year as part their stewardship towards our parish, **Stella and Bill Woodfield** prayerfully and with utmost care to the Christ Child decorate our church for Christmas. The transformation of parish is breathe taking every year. With the garland, the lights, poinsettias, the Christmas tree, there is always that little extra touch that Stella and Bill bring to make the church

that much more special. A special thank you also to **Paul Sulich and Orestes Mihaly** for cutting down and putting up this years' Christmas tree. In a few years, we will be able to cut our tree from the ones we planted here on our parish property. Many thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield for once again giving their talent and time to beautifully decorate the church for Christmas. Also thanks to Orestes Mihaly and Paul Sulich for getting the Christmas tree.

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

**Christmas Bake Sale—A HUGE**

**THANK YOU** to all those who made our Christmas Sale such a success. From those who came to make more perogies, bake more rolls, cook more stuffed cabbage, bake more cookies and make more jams. To all those who set up the church hall, worked the kitchen, ran the bookstore, fill orders and clean up. It was a total parish effort! God bless all of you for your stewardship to our parish!

**[Joy to the world!](#)**

**Angels. Shepherds. Wise men.** Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Even as the littlest kid, you knew the story. But you know lots of stories, don't you? What's different about the Christmas story?

Well, the Christmas story is true! And it brings you joy! On Christmas Eve, we'll hear about the shepherds, who saw an angel standing in front of them. And what did he say? "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people."

To ALL people? Not just for my family and me? Not just for my friends at church? Not just for Christians? No! Joy to all people. Joy to the world!

Sometimes we might think that our Lord, Jesus Christ is just for us Christians. But the Bible tells us that He came to earth to bring joy to ALL people. Our Lord wants to save the whole world, not just a little group. Did you know that YOU can help bring that joy to all the world? When you try to be like Christ, you help bring joy to the world. When you are kind and loving to others, you can share the joy of Christ to everybody around you...even people who aren't Christians, even people who don't go to your church, or to any church at all! Yes, joy to all the world!

**SAINT EUGENIA: KEEPING YOUR EYES ON CHRIST**

**Have you ever forgotten to do** something, because you're just too busy? Just when you're so busy wrapping Christmas presents and hanging your stocking up, some of us might forget about one of the best saints of our Church—Saint Eugenia. Every year, we celebrate her nameday on Christmas Eve.

Saint Eugenia's father was a prefect—a nobleman in Alexandria, Egypt, which means he ruled over people there. But even though Eugenia probably had lots of money and lots of other things to think about, she learned about Jesus Christ. She was even baptized as a Christian. (When she lived, being a Christian still was not allowed.) When she was a young woman, she secretly left Alexandria and joined a monastery. She wanted to focus only on being a good Christian.

Later, some people found her and tried to get her in trouble. They brought her to the prefect, who happened to be her own father! She told him that she was Eugenia, and she also told him about Christ. Her father became a Christian then, too. That didn't get them off the hook though. They were Christians, and that meant they would be put to death. St. Eugenia faced her death with love and hope for Christ!

Let's not forget St. Eugenia! Let's remember her bravery, always focused on Christ, even when things were hard for her.

We're on the Web!

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

We celebrate St. Eugenia's nameday today, Dec. 24th (Jan. 6th, 00)