

# 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/?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 Twenty-sixth

Sunday after Pentecost.

The Epistle Ephesians  
5:9-19; Hebrews 13:17-21.

The Gospel is from Luke  
17:12-19; Luke 6:17-23.

St. Nicholas Archbishop of  
Myra & Wonderworker.

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

Services/Events	1
Adult Ed	2
Parish Men's Group	2
Church School	2
Parish Christmas Card	2
Vine and Branches	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Cards for Marilyn	3
Perogie Sessions	3
Christmas Bake Sale	3
Toys for Tots	3
Upcoming Events	3
Nativity Fast	4

**Sunday, December 6, 10 AM –**  
Liturgy

**Sunday, December 6, 11:30 AM –**  
St. Nicholas visit and brunch

**Sunday, December 6, 6 PM and  
& PM –** Diocesan Youth Vine and  
the Branches Zoom meeting

**Monday, December 7, 7 PM –**  
Spirituality Class

**Tuesday, December 8, 9 AM –**  
Perogie Session

**Wednesday, December 9, 7 PM –**  
Adult Catechism

**Thursday, December 10, 9 AM –**  
New Testament class

**Thursday, December 10, 5  
PM –** Kielbasa Making

**Friday, December 11, 9 AM  
–** Old Testament Class

**Saturday, December 12, 10  
AM to 3 PM –** Christmas  
Bake Sale

**Sunday, December 13, 10  
AM –** Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
12:30 PM –** Parish Council  
Meeting

## Parish Men's Group

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.

The next **"The Vine and the Branches"** online Diocesan Youth event for youth ages 5-18 (Kindergarten up to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade currently) is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 6pm. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is calling all our youth ages 5-18 to once again come together online on December 6 in order to strengthen their faith and connect with their peers around the Diocese. This will be a special Christmas Version of The Vine and the Branches. Cocoa will be "served", a special Christmas performance will be offered, and there may even be a special Christmas Fireplace Scene!! Registration is quick and easy at:

[The Vine and the Branches - 12/6/20](https://www.holytrinitydanbury.org/2020/12/06/the-vine-and-the-branches-12-6-20)

Registration closes on Thursday, 12/3, so register TODAY! Youth Ages 5-12 will be online from 6pm-7:30pm. Youth Ages 13-18 will be online from 7pm-8:30pm. Once you register for the event, a full schedule and the links to join the Event will be sent to you. His Eminence is looking forward to seeing all of you!!!

**Parish Men's Group** – The Men of the Parish will be reading the Book Orthodoxy and the Religions of the Future by Fr. Seraphim Rose.

More information to come. If you are interested in attending and/or would like more information on the Parish Men's Group, please contact Fr. Luke

## | Parish Christmas Card

**Parish Christmas Card**—If you would like to be included in the Christmas card from our parish, please see or email Lisa Farrah ([tsarina8558@gmail.com](mailto:tsarina8558@gmail.com)) and either confirm your listing from last year or give her an updated or new listing for you or your family. If possible, we would like to get the card to the printer by Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help cover the cost of printing and postage, a \$20 donation will be gratefully accepted.

## Adult Education Opportunities

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

**Spirituality Class** – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. This week we will be starting a new book: *Prayer, Encounter with The Living God by*

*Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev.*

**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'll be starting a new book soon, *Acquiring the Mind of Christ.*

**New Testament** – Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. currently we are reading and studying *St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*

**Old Testament Class** – Fridays at 9:00 a.m. We have begun *4 Kingdoms.*

Classes will resume in the church hall this week. We will also continue to make them available via Zoom (live, same credentials).

## Open Parish Council Positions

**Open Parish Council Positions**—We will have several parish council positions open as of our Annual Meeting in January. We will be looking for a new President, Vice President and Treasurer. Both the President and Treasurer are past their term limits. Please consider giving some time to help manage the business of the parish. Below are "job descriptions" for these three positions. Also, feel free to talk to current

officers (Susan Sulich-Pres., Nick Fong VP, Monika Mihaly, Treasurer) if you have questions or want to learn more about what's involved.

### President

- Set the agenda for monthly parish council meetings and annual and semi-annual meetings.
- Lead parish and parish council meetings and see that decisions made for the parish are carried out.
- Sign official documents of the parish and checks as needed.
- Represent the parish at outside events if needed.

### Vice President

- Assist with the duties of the President.

- Assume the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President.

### Treasurer

- Keep an accurate account of all moneys of the parish.
- Keep the checkbook of the parish.
- Receive, review and pay all bills of the parish.
- Present monthly financial statement at parish council meetings and annual and semi-annual statements at parish meetings.
- Help formulate and maintain an annual budget for the parish.

## Dorothy Day

**Dorothy Day**—Our next date to serve to serve at Dorothy Day will be Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:30 p.m. As a reminder, we are packaging and handing out bag lunches to the hungry in the community and also preparing lunches and breakfasts that are brought to area hotels where shelter guests are currently being housed and senior housing. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Farrah or Susan Sulich.

## | Bake and Craft Sale

**Christmas Bake and Craft Sales**—Here's an update on these significant parish events. We are hoping to have our holiday bake sales but with some modifications. The sale will be only one day each: Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. If we are able, we will have the sales in the hall with COVID security measures (masks, social distancing, limiting numbers, etc.). We are also prepared to switch to full curbside pick-up if necessary. We are asking all our customers to pre-order. Order forms should go out this week. Stay tuned for more details and cooking/baking help needed.

## | Toys for Tots

**Toys for Tots**—This year our parish is participating in Toys for Tots. Unwrapped toys may be left in the hall today or next Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you will not be here on Sunday but would like to drop off a gift during the week, please let us know and we will make arrangements for a time when someone will be at church to receive the gift.

## Upcoming Events

**Christmas Bake Sale**—Sat., December 12<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Parish Council Meeting**—Sun. December 13<sup>th</sup> following liturgy

**Christmas Eve Compline** – Thursday, December 24, 7 PM

**Christmas Day Divine Liturgy** – Friday, December 25, 10 AM

## Cards for Marilyn

**Cards for Marilyn**—Marilyn Zaengle is currently in Bethel Health Care and is only allowed one visitation by Bill per week. If you would like to reach out to her by sending a card, you can mail them to: Ms. Marilyn Zaengle – Room 212D, Bethel Health Care, 13 Parklawn Dr. Bethel, CT 06801. Thank you for all who have mailed cards so far—they are really a bright spot in her week.

## | Clothing Drive

**Clothing Drive**— We just received our latest check for \$357.50 for the clothing drive! We are continuing to accept more donations. Many thanks to Ann Huott and her family for their ongoing work on this project which has brought in over \$3,000 for our parish! For the last pick up they had 200 bags. Please bring in clothes, shoes, linens and other soft items in plastic garbage bags to the church. If you are uncertain what items are eligible, see the list at the candlestand or contact Ann.

## | Christmas Bake Sale

**Christmas Bake Sale**—Next Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas Bake Sale. Many thanks to all those who have given their time and talent to make perogies, stuffed cabbage, rolls, kielbasa and cookies. We have over \$2,000 in orders! Your time is greatly appreciated. If anyone is available to help at the sale on Saturday, please contact Susan Sulich. We will follow the same procedure we did for the Thanksgiving sale which went very smoothly.

## Birthdays

<b>November</b>	
Paul & Elaine Toaso - Anniversary	9
Kathryn Kerpchar	9
Nataly Guerrero	10
Lukas Todosiev	10
Sophia Baroody	11
Andrew Timosca	11
Michael Dran	12
Tennessee Molineaux	13
Matthias Robert Paltauf	13
Daniel John Huott	13
Andrei Zubek	21
Sandy Fong	23
Robert Young	27
Nicholas Gross	30
<b>December</b>	
Katarina Betancourt	2
Luke Faubel	4
Dominic Scalzo	6
Sarah Mannello	7
Michael Kerpchar	8
Trianna Gutzman	10
Frank Scalzo	13
Alex Sirak	22
Elaine Toaso	30
Michael Scalzo	31

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



**METROPOLITAN GREGORY'S  
2020 Nativity PRAYER  
CHALLENGE...**As we have  
been asked in the last 5 years,  
so this year all are asked to  
include a special prayer each  
day of the Nativity Fast. Copies  
of the Prayer are attached for  
you to take and participate in  
this challenge during the Nativity  
Fast.

**OYMT Holiday Help for Bethel  
Health Care**—The Orthodox  
Youth Mission Team is working  
to bring some holiday cheer and  
hope to residents of Bethel  
Health Care where Marilyn  
Zaengle is currently. Residents  
are currently on lockdown and  
not allowed any visitors. Instead  
of our annual holiday fundraiser  
the team has decided instead to  
create care gifts with the help of  
Pani Bethany and Mary Kay.  
We will be sending mugs or  
socks, lotion and a Nativity  
coloring sheet to the nursing  
home residents with a message  
of Hope card made by our team  
members. The cost of one gift is  
\$15 and we are asking anyone  
who is able to make a donation  
for one (or more!) of the gifts.  
See the attached flyer. If you  
would like to donate, please let  
Susan Sulich or Pani Bethany  
know. In addition, Pani Bethany  
will have her annual holiday  
Mary Kay shopping event for the  
team with 25% of the proceeds  
going toward buying additional  
nursing home gift packs. Thank  
you in advance for your  
generosity.

**Guidelines for the Nativity Fast** - The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. Because it begins the day after the commemoration of the Apostle Philip (Nov. 14th), it is often referred to as the Apostle Philip fast. Although it is as long as Great Lent, it is not as severe. Throughout the entire duration of these forty days there is no accommodation for meat, dairy products and eggs. However, fish is allowed to be consumed every day except Wednesdays and Fridays, from November 15th until December 17th. Fish is also allowed on the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, which falls on November 21st, no matter what day of the week it falls on. From the 18th to the 24th of December, which is Christmas Eve, oil and wine are the only relief from a strict fast, except Wednesdays and Fridays on which we adhere to a strict fast. We should keep a fast of dry foods (xerophagy) also on the first day of the fast on November 15th, as well as on Christmas Eve, unless of course they fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

**Do Not Fast:**

- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
  - during serious illness;
  - without prayer;
  - without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.

**Fasting from Foods and Passions** We must always keep in mind that in our Church true fasting is not only about abstaining from certain foods, but also abstaining from the passions and sins. Saint Photios the Great says: "Fasting that is acceptable to God is that which combines the abstention of food with the aversion of chatter, envy, hatred and other sins. The one who fasts from food, but does not temper the passions, is like one who puts a splendid foundation to a house he has built, but allows snakes, scorpions and every poisonous reptile to live within." We thus aim for a spiritual fast during this period, to avoid sin and keep the will of God, being an embodiment of love and forgiveness and mercy, as well as striving to attain even greater virtue. In this way we will better understand and realize the words of Saint Basil the Great: "True fasting is to alienate ourselves from all evil, all sin, all impassioned thoughts, all unclean desires."

**PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH SPF50**

The November-December 2020 edition of SPF50 is now available digitally on [scoed.org](http://scoed.org).

This issue begins the week of November 22nd and includes a Scripture reading guide and prayers designed specifically for families to prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

If you haven't tried SPF50 yet, consider joining in now. While the holiday season is undoubtedly a busy time, by making a commitment to read from the Bible and pray together for 50 minutes a month, your family will "keep Christ in Christmas" while spending quality time together.

To access this material or to find out more about how SPF50 can help your family grow in Christ, visit the Diocesan Website at [scoed.org](http://scoed.org) and look for the SPF50 logo.

