

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

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

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth:

<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

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

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

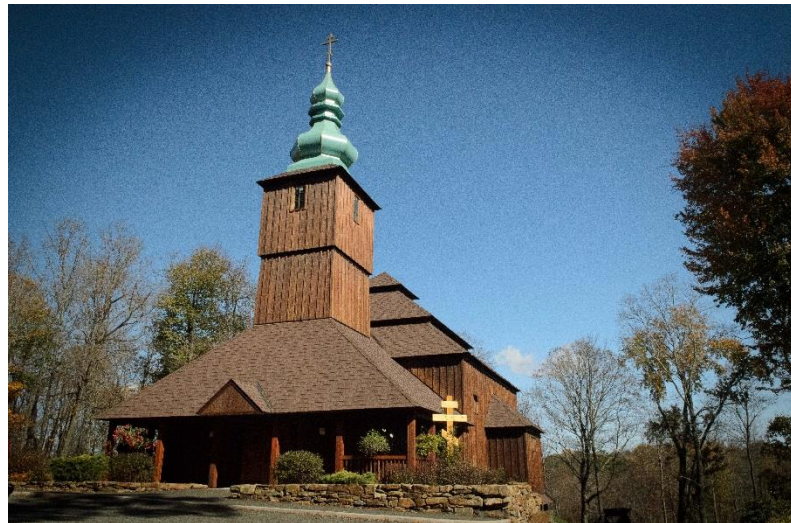
Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle is from Galatians 3:23-29. The Gospel is from Mark 5:24-34. Great Martyr Barbara.

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.

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Schedule of Services and Events for this week

Sunday, December 4, 10 AM
– Divine Liturgy – There will be a collection taken for the St. Nicholas Fund

Sunday, December 4, 11:30 AM
– St. Nicholas Brunch

Sunday, December 4, 3 PM
– OYMT Meeting

Monday, December 5, 6 PM
– Vespers for St. Nicholas

Monday, December 5, 7 PM
– Spirituality Class

Tuesday, December 6, 9 AM
– Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 7, 7 PM
– Adult Catechism Class

Friday, December 9, 9 AM
– Old Testament Class

Friday, December 9, 11 AM
– Set up for Christmas Bake Sale

Friday, December 9, 5 PM to 9 PM
– Sip and Shop
OYMT Fundraiser

Saturday, December 10, 10 AM to 3 PM
– Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 10, 5 PM
– Vespers

Sunday, December 11, 10 AM
– Divine Liturgy

Please remember to sign up and subscribing on our parish web site 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/htoccdanbury/?fref=hovercard> so the word gets out.

Church School—At our last church school session families put together jars of “Friendship Soup Mix” which we plan to sell at our upcoming Thanksgiving on Nov. 19th. The proceeds from the soup sales will be used to buy food to make and serve at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen here in Danbury. We are looking for volunteers from the church school to sell the soup at the sale. Sale hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let Nick Fong, Fr. Luke or Susan Sulich know if you are available to be at the sale for an hour or two to sell the soup mixes. Upcoming family church school events:

- Sunday, December 18th following coffee hour: We will meet to discuss what to purchase and make for Dorothy Day Soup kitchen and there will be a brief discussion on the Nativity of our Lord.
- Wednesday, December 28th We will meet at the church hall to prepare the food for the soup kitchen and then go over and serve from 1:30 to 4:30.

Cards for Marilyn and Bob

Cards for Marilyn and Bob—Marilyn Zaengle and Bob Popp are both at Bethel Health Care and would very much enjoy hearing from parishioners. The address for the center is: Bethel Health Care, 13 Parklawn Dr., Bethel, CT 06801. Marilyn’s room number is 121D and Bob’s room number is 227W

| OYMT Fundraiser

Sip and Shop OYMT Fundraiser— Please plan to join us on Friday, Dec. 9th for our 2nd annual Sip and Shop to benefit the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. Sip and Shop will take place between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the home of Beth Rzyk (6 Honey Hollow Court, Katonah, NY). Enjoy festive nibbles and sips as you shop our amazing vendors for special gifts for everyone on your list or maybe a little something special for yourself. See the attached flyer for more details. Tickets are \$5 which includes admission and entry into a wonderful door prize raffle. See Susan Sulich for tickets.

| Dorothy Day

Date Change for December Dorothy Day – NOTE: we will not be serving on our usual Friday in December. Instead, we will be at Dorothy Day on Wednesday, Dec. 28th with our church school children and families to serve the meal. Dorothy Day also recently held their annual meeting. Attached is the report which gives an overview of soup kitchen and other services currently being offered to aid the homeless of our community.

Adult Education Opportunities

We have several adult education classes going on currently that are currently online:

Spirituality Class – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. This week we will soon be starting a new book: *Unseen Warfare*

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, **Symeon the New Theologian – The Discourses.**

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

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

All classes will take place in the church hall. We will also make them available via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. (live, same credentials).

Church Store—We have many new items in our Church Store. Check out our selection of books for summer reading, beautiful icons, jewelry, and religious items. We have many children’s offerings and items perfect for gift giving. Your purchase also benefits the parish. If there are any items you would like to see in our store, please let Lisa Farrah or Sarah Mannello know.

St. Nicholas Brunch—On Sunday, Dec. 4th we will have our annual St. Nicholas Brunch in lieu of coffee hour. This is a fast-free potluck celebration in honor of St. Nicholas. A sign-up sheet will be in the hall for food for the brunch. This will also be when we exchange our Secret Santa gifts. And, best of all, St. Nicholas will pay a visit to see all the children and teens of our parish.

Secret Santa—Our Secret Santa: Here’s how it works: everyone who wishes to participate puts their name into the drawing. For children, please include ages. Then each person who puts a name in, draws a name out. Get a small gift (\$15 limit) for the person you draw. Wrap the gift and bring to the St. Nicholas Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 4th. Reveal your identity to the Secret Santa person you drew!

Orthodox Mission Team

Join the Orthodox Youth Mission Team—We are currently recruiting new team members for our 2023 youth mission trip to Appalachia. The trip will take place from Sat. July 8 – Sunday, July 16, 2023. Teens who will be finished with 8th grade by the summer are eligible to attend. The cost for youth to attend is \$350. Deadline to sign up with a 50% deposit is Nov. 15th. We will meet once a month for training sessions beginning in December. If you have questions or are a high school or college student or an adult who is interested in being a leader, please see Susan Sulich or Fr. Luke.

Christmas Bake Sales

Christmas Bake Sale Saturday—Next Saturday, Dec. 10th we will have our Christmas Bake and Craft Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help is needed in a number of ways:

- Perogie, stuffed cabbage and cookie baking this week.
- Set Up and cookie packaging, Friday 11 a.m.
- Help in the kitchen and filling orders Saturday—a few hours in the morning or afternoon

Holiday Gifts for All

Holiday Gifts for All at Sip & Shop—Next Friday, Dec. 9th OYMT will be hosting Sip and Shop. The event will take place at the home of Beth Rzyk (6 Honey Hollow Court, Katonah) from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Shoppers are invited to come any time during that window and enjoy festive sips and bites and a holiday raffle while you shop amid our select vendors. This year we will have a Swarovski Crystal Jewelry, Mary Kay, Scout and Cellar—organic wine, coffees, olive oils and vinegars, New England Abbey Beeswax Candles, Traveling Boutique (women's clothing and accessories) and Sarah's Cards. Shopping passes are \$5 and enter you in a wonderful door prize raffle with items from all our vendors. Best of all your shopping will benefit our youth mission team! Susan Sulich will have shopping passes at coffee hour.

Upcoming Events

St. Nicholas Brunch—Sunday, Dec. 4th

OYMT Toffee Treat Get Together—Sunday, Dec. 4th 3-6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Danbury

Sip and Shop Fundraiser for OYMT—Saturday, Dec. 3rd 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Bake Sale—Saturday, Dec. 10th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Family Church School—Sunday Dec. 18th 1:00 p.m.

Dorothy Day with Church School Families—Wednesday, Dec. 28th 12:00-4:30 p.m.

Birthdays

| December | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Luke Faubel | 4 |
| Dominic Scalzo | 6 |
| Sarah Mannello | 7 |
| Michael Kerpchar | 8 |
| Trianna Gutzman | 10 |
| Frank Scalzo | 13 |
| Willi Jacob Gartner | 16 |
| Chrissanth Gross | 22 |
| Alex Sirak | 22 |
| John Cole Mihaly | 27 |
| Ralph & Donna Loomis | 28 |
| Tyler John Somoskovec | 29 |
| Elaine Toaso | 30 |
| Michael Scalzo | 31 |

Hold on Toys—Thank you to all who have donated toys for our toddlers to enjoy. We are full up at this point and can't accept any more donations!

OYMT Toffee Treat Get Together

OYMT Toffee Treat Get Together—Members of the Orthodox Youth Mission Team will be getting together on Sunday, Dec. 4th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. to meet one another and to make Toffee Treats to sell as a fundraiser for our summer 2023 mission trip during the holiday season. Pizza will be served.

Calling All Crafters

Calling All Crafters—We are always looking for new crafters for our holiday bake and craft sales. If you or someone you know makes handmade artisan items and you would like a table for the Thanksgiving or Christmas sale (or both) please contact Susan Sulich (ssulich@yahoo.com). The cost of a table is \$35. Feel free to share this with anyone you know who makes beautiful handicrafts.

Christmas Card

Christmas Card—It's time to prepare our annual Christmas card. Lisa Farrah will have a list of all the names from last year. Please update your listing or add yourself or your family if you are new to the parish.

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



Help Re-stock our Kitchen—we are in need of decaf coffee and soup bowls.

Christmas Decorations—Many thanks to Stella and Bill Woodfield for preparing our church for Christmas with all their beautiful decorating! Please refrain from watering the poinsettias as they wilt easily if overwatered.

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."
