

# 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>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Recommended Orthodox Internet Ministries

<http://myocn.net/>

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

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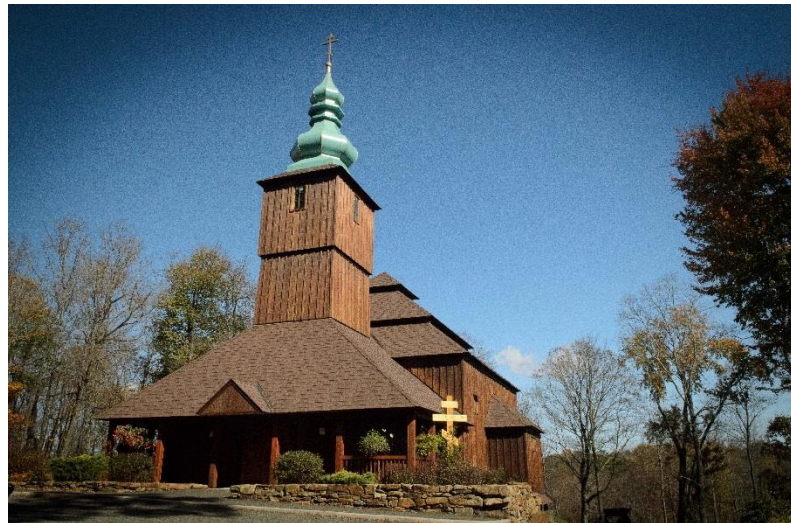
## Welcome to Holy Trinity Parish

The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle is from Colossians 3:4-11. The Gospel is from Luke 14:16-24. Venerable Daniel the Stylite.

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

<b>Sunday, December 11, 10 AM</b> – Divine Liturgy	<b>Wednesday, December 14,</b> <b>7 PM</b> – Adult Catechism Class
<b>Monday, December 12, 7 PM</b> – Spirituality Class	<b>Thursday, December 15, 7 PM</b> – New Testament Class
<b>Tuesday, December 13, 9 AM</b> – Akathist	<b>Friday, December 16, 9 AM</b> - Old Testament Class
<b>Tuesday, December 13, 4 PM to 7 PM</b> – Visitation in St. John the Baptist Church, 384 Mill Hill Avenue, Bridgeport, CT. The Priest's Funeral Service will be sung at 6 PM.	<b>Saturday, December 17, 5 PM</b> – Vespers
<b>Wednesday, December 14, 10 AM</b> – Funeral Divine Liturgy for Fr. John Duranko	<b>Sunday, December 18, 10 AM</b> – Divine Liturgy
	<b>Sunday, December 18, 1 PM to 2 PM</b> – Family Church School

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.

**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. 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

## | 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. 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## | Family Fun Night

**Family Fun Night**—During the Christmas break we will have a family fun night on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Plan to get together for games or a movie and potluck at 6 p.m. in the church hall.

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## 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.

**Save the Date: New Year’s Dinner Dance**—Our New Year’s Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> in the church hall. Our favorite DJ Bill Lopez will be providing music and there will be a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. Stay tuned for more details. RSVP to Pani Bethany or Susan Sulich.

**Church School Next Sunday**—The next session of our family church school will take place next Sunday after coffee hour. Fr. Luke will be talking to the youth of the parish about the Nativity of Our Lord and we will finalize plans for serving at the Dorothy Day soup kitchen on Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 15<sup>th</sup>. 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**—Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas Bake Sale! It was a very enjoyable and successful day with lots of happy customers. There are still some cookies, perogies and rolls for sale if anyone is interested and we will have the raffle drawing during coffee hour.

## Clothing Drive

**Clothing Drive a Big Success**—The numbers are in and our clothing drive's most recent collection brought in \$671.50. A huge thank you to Ann Huott and her family for collecting and storing the clothes and for coordinating this profitable fundraiser for our parish.

## Upcoming Events

**Family Church School**—Sunday  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

**Royal Hours** - Friday, December 23, 9 AM

**Holy Supper (covered dish) - Strict Fast** - Saturday, December 24, 5PM

**Christmas Eve Services and the singing of Christmas Carols** - Saturday, December 24, 7 PM

**St. Basil's Divine Liturgy – Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** - Sunday, December 25, 10 AM –

**Divine Liturgy - Synaxis of the Mother of God** - Monday, December 26, 9 AM

**Akathist Nativity of Our Lord** - Tuesday, December 27, 9 AM

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

**Family Fun Night**—Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

**New Year's Dinner Dance**— Sat. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Orthodox Youth Mission Team Training #1**—Sunday,

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 3-5 p.m. at Holy Trinity

## Birthdays

December	
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!

## 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.

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❖ **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.
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**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."