



**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**

305 Washington Street  
P. O. Box 2876  
New Britain, CT 06050-2876

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ORTHODOX CHURCH**

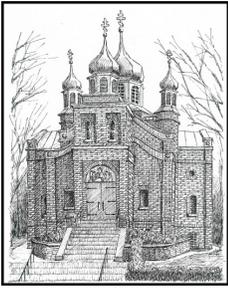


**MARCH 2014**

# HÖLY TRINITY ÖRTHÖDÖX CHURCH

## MARCH 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 Cheese Fare - <b>Forgiveness Sunday</b> Church School 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM &amp; FORGIVENESS VESPERS Coffee Hour - Bartos</p>	<p>3 <b>BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT</b> Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>4 Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>5 Confession 5-5:30 P. M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6 P.M. SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>6 Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Confession 4-4:30 PM Great Vespers 5:00PM Confession</p>
<p>9 1<sup>st</sup> of Great Lent <b>Orthodoxy Sunday</b> Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M. Coffee Hour - Wamk FORCC/Deanery Vespers 4 P.M. St. Dimitrić, Easton</p>	<p>10 Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>11 <u>Visitation:</u> 9:30AM JEROME HOME &amp; 10:30 AM ARBOR ROSE (for Communion)</p>	<p>12 Confession 5-5:30 P. M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6 P.M. SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>13 Confession 12:30 P. M.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Confession 4-4:30 PM Great Vespers 5:00PM Confession</p>
<p>16 2<sup>nd</sup> of Great Lent <b>St. Gregory Palamas</b> Church School 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M. Coffee Hour - Cherpak/ Bradanini Deanery Vespers 4 P.M. Terryville</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 St. Nikolai Velimirovich Confession 2:00 P. M.</p>	<p>19 Confession 5-5:30 P. M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6 P.M. SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>20 <u>Visitation:</u> 9:30 AM Middlewoods (for communion)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>23 Confession 4-4:30 PM Great Vespers 5:00PM Confession</p>
<p>23 3<sup>rd</sup> of Great Lent <b>Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM Coffee Hour - ❄️❄️❄️ FORCC Vespers 4 P.M St. Mary's, Bridgeport</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 <b>Annunciation</b> Festal Vesperal Liturgy 6:00 PM SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>26 <b>Archangel Gabriel</b> Confession 5-5:30 P. M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6 P.M. SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>27 Confession 3:30 AM</p>	<p>28 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 5:00 PM @ St. Mary's</p>	<p>29 Confession 4-4:30 PM Great Vespers 5:00PM Confession</p>
<p>30 4<sup>th</sup> of Great Lent <b>St. John Climacus</b> Church School, 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM Coffee Hour - ❄️❄️❄️ Vespers 4 PM HTOC</p>	<p>31 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 P.M</p>	<p>April 1 <b>St. Mary of Egypt</b> Confession 2:00 P. M.</p>	<p>2 Confession 5-5:30 P. M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6 P.M. SOUP 'n BREAD</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Akathist to the Theotokos 6:30 PM</p>	<p>5 <b>St. Theodora of Thessalonica</b> Pre-Pascha Clean-up 8:30 Confession 4-4:30 PM Great Vespers 5:00PM Confession</p>



# Monthly Newsletter of HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

305 Washington Street • PO Box 2876 • New Britain, CT 06050-2876

www.htocnb.org

FEBRUARY 2014

**ONE STEWARDS:** March is ONE Stewards month and the 2014 campaign has begun. Our parish had a wonderful 2013! Our parish over the past seven years has increased its contributions each year. Also, we had five members in the Bishop's Circle. For those who increased their donation, **THANK YOU!!** If you were a contributor to ONE Stewards in the past or are a current "steward" the time has come to step forward and be counted. Our contributions to ONE Stewards goes to support charities, seminarian scholarships, mission support and the diocesan Youth Rally. Please respond to the ONE Stewards mailing when it arrives at your home. You can see our parishes "Honor Roll" posted on the bulletin board with other One Steward material.



**LENTEN VESPERS:** On Sunday afternoons [all begin at 4:00 p.m.] during the fast, Lenten Vespers will be served at various churches throughout the Connecticut Deanery. It may seem burdensome but visiting our neighbors brings great joy to the host parish to fill their temple and we get to pray and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lenten Vesper Schedule:

Mar.	9th	Orthodoxy Sunday: St. Dimitrie, Easton
Mar.	16th	Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville
Mar.	23rd	St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, Bridgeport
Mar.	30th	Holy Trinity, New Britain
Apr.	6th	Holy Unction: Three Saints, Ansonia
Apr.	13th	Bridegroom Matins: Christ the Saviour Church, Southbury

**GREAT LENT:** Please make a sincere effort to attend more services, to fast, to give alms, to read the scriptures or a spiritual book and to participate in the Sacrament of Confession during our journey of Great Lent. Fasting for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is nothing by mouth (food, drink, smoking, etc.) at least from the noontime meal until after Communion. Those who are physically able to are encouraged to fast the whole day.

- ◆ Please check the calendar for weekday confession times, also, Wednesdays, 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays, before and after Vespers. Father also is available by appointment at other times. **Please** make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, Friday, **April 11th**.

***A note about Confession and frequent Communion:***  
*For those who are receiving the Eucharist every Sunday and on Feast days, an acceptable rule of thumb is to participate in the Sacrament of Confession at least once during each of the four Lenten seasons during the year. Also, in preparation for receiving the Holy Eucharist, especially at Sunday Divine Liturgy, prayer and fasting is the acceptable practice. Prayer, by attending Vespers the night before, and fasting, from midnight until after Divine Liturgy. When we have a weekday Festal Vespersal Liturgy the rules of fasting are the same as for Presanctified. We also should participate in the Sacrament of Confession if we are absent from Divine Liturgy & the Eucharist for three weeks in a row.*

**PARISH COUNCIL:** The next meeting of the 2014 Parish Council will be held on Monday evening, March 31st at 7:00 P.M. All council members are reminded of the schedule change and asked to make every effort to attend the meeting.

**The March charity** collection is for New Britain Police **Officer Brett Morgan**. Officer Morgan has been hospitalized since January 19, 2014, after sustaining serious injuries while investigating a stolen car complaint. He has undergone several surgical procedures and intensive rehabilitation therapy. He will continue his therapy and rehabilitation as an outpatient as he continues to heal and recover from his injuries. The New Britain Police Department and New Britain Police Union has set up a fund to benefit Officer Morgan and his family to deal with expenses that have and will arise out of these criminal acts.



The collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month. Please use the envelope that is included in your monthly mailing.

Archpriest David Koles, Rector  
9 Frankie Lane  
Terryville, CT 06786  
Phone: 860-573-0013  
Email: [frdavid@htocnb.org](mailto:frdavid@htocnb.org)

## Birthdays in MARCH:

2	Mary Camarata	1928
5	Mat. Faith Kuharsky	1936
6	Paul Salina	1948
7	Megan Bartos	1986
10	Leslie Delaney	1979
12	Lila Karabin	2008
15	Kara Ahern	2008
17	Sara Kumor	2004
21	Marion Bichun	1942
21	Gabriel Rembisz	2006
23	Julia Boisvert	1987
26	Jennifer Belonick	1985
30	Jeffrey Burrill	1985
31	Larry Beck	1928
31	Diane Dounouk	1945



### “WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”

The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones **NEED** to feel connected to their parish family.

#### *St. Lucian Residence, New Britain*

Mary Kotrady

#### *Middlewoods, Newington*

Jennie Skovich

#### *Jerome Home, New Britain*

Sadie Albino

Helen Karabin

#### *Arbor Rose, New Britain*

Nona Belomyzy

Mary Camarata

#### *Ledgecrest Nursing Home, Berlin*

Natasha Zaiko

#### *Brandywine Assisted Living, Litchfield*

Mary Fairbanks

*At Home:* Jim Dounouk, Michael Horbal, Joseph Kowar, Susan Labas, George Liwen, Stella Liwen, Jennie Pich, Irene Prigodich, Barbara Raymond and John Steffick.



### PARISH DIPTYCHS

Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

John Gedz	66	March 1 1954
Anna Zavadsky	63	March 1 1962
Stephen Prigodich	76	March 1 2002
Stephen Shimko	52	March 2 1912
Conrad Filipchuk		March 2 1933
Alexander Kornak	81	March 2 1953
Mary Gel	84	March 2 1978
Julia Jazkevich	93	March 2 1999
Child Antonina Vanuk	1	March 3 1920
Nicolai Jazkevich	86	March 3 1983
Isaiah Zablotsky		March 5 1951
John Dobosz	77	March 5 1963
Mary Makuch	79	March 5 1973
Dina Karanowytch	86	March 5 2010
Benjamin Karanowytch	44	March 6 1996
Elizabeth (Zuk) Zaleski	76	March 6 2000
Helen Finn	86	March 6 2001
John Stepanuk	70	March 7 1919
Child Stephen Wanik	9 mo	March 7 1922
Leonid Matyschsyk	95	March 7 2013
Peter Adamovich	48	March 8 1935
William Burak	63	March 8 1960
Helen Panevich	56	March 8 1961
Naum Martinuk	49	March 9 1942
Sophie Gasukewich	92	March 9 1985
Child Michael Muchko	1	March 10 1909
Child Theodore Sonedayik	2 mo	March 10 1910
Child Eugenia Shakuna	17 days	March 10 1912
Child Constantine Stankevich	23 days	March 10 1918
Lillian Maddaluno	90	March 10 2008
Mary Panish	87	March 11 1997
Kathryn Petriw	83	March 11 2009
Paul Krish	56	March 12 1975
Mary Mick	28	March 13 1928
Anastasia Karpie	63	March 13 1955
Michael Lewchick		March 13 1985
Child Constantine Petrov	3	March 14 1914
Child Constantine Zdanuk	3	March 14 1914
Catherine Uliasz	97	March 14 2002
Roman Zhardetsky		March 15 1915
Thekla Gladky	42	March 15 1937
Alexander Zhdanuk	69	March 15 1942
Anastasia Burak	57	March 15 1952
Tikhon Zuk	72	March 16 1949
Mary (Dobosz) Roman	86	March 16 2000
Stephen Semanchik		March 17 1939
Katherine Pravka	41	March 17 1941
Dorothy Bielomizy	80	March 17 1962
Child Michael Semchik	5	March 18 1903
Child Miroslav Halaytso	8 mo	March 18 1922
Mary Horbal	67	March 18 1970
Child Evan Bashkevich	1	March 19 1936
Peter Horbal	81	March 19 1975
Paul Kozuch	70	March 20 1966
Katherine Kotek		March 20 1989
Eulah (Julia) Chesky	94	March 20 2008
Mary Kislicki		March 21 1970
Mary Stepanuk	34	March 22 1916

Nicholas Halaytso	37	March 22 1926
George Shimchick	74	March 22 1971
George Sachok	85	March 22 1983
Wasył Szestakow	67	March 22 1986
James Tilley	50	March 23 1964
Mary Romanchuk	86	March 23 1974
Helen Stankievtz		March 23 1987
Vasili Ratushinsky	45	March 24 1911
Aleksy Pituk	48	March 24 1930
Mary Zavada	57	March 24 1949
Akulina Kateshenok	76	March 24 1972
Helen Zaiko	87	March 25 2005
Nina Olear	88	March 26 2010
Vasili Lazar	23	March 27 1903
Child Anastasia Dyachuk	2 days	March 27 1922
Victor Raducha	52	March 27 1942
Ignatz Smoluk	75	March 27 1968
Arlene Osuch		March 27 2011
Albert Murr	71	March 27 2011
Walter Gedz	87	March 28 2004
John Wlasuk	88	March 29 1975
Child John Verder	6 mo	March 30 1918
Mary Eroch	67	March 30 1962
Peter Dyranka	56	March 30 1971
Casimer Zielinski	75	March 31 1994

of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation.

**Father Alexander Schmemmann**

Introduction to the DRE/OCA 1975-1982  
*Forgiveness Sunday Vespers.*



## FEASTDAYS IN MARCH:

### THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD – CELEBRATED ON MARCH 25TH

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century.

The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of St Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel."* The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of St Basil, as well: "When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Joseph: *"Rejoice, thou who art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."* 3

## ВѢЧНА ПАМЯТЬ



## Forgiveness Sunday

In the Orthodox Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday. On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ:

*"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..."*  
(Mark 6:14-15)

Then after Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: "Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!", after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34).  
 "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1: 35-38)."



In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, St Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that "the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world." He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God's will, but also involves the Virgin's free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God's will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.



**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
 January 26, 2014**

Warden Gladys Labas called the 112<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to order at 11:15 AM. A quorum was noted with 38 of 74 pledged members in attendance. The meeting began with the singing of "O Heavenly King."

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the annual parish meeting held January 27, 2013 were presented. George Ludko offered correction on page 4: "The committee decided that the Memorial fund will have up to 50% of the money on hand, the rest will be invested." Nick Kokus made a motion to accept as corrected. Chris Dresko seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** (Full text included below:)

METRICAL RECORDS 2013: Baptisms - 5, Chrismations - 0, Weddings - 1, Funerals - 6

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ, each year I try to come up with a new way of stating our condition, of telling where we are as a parish, of trying to encourage and bolster the faithful to make a deeper commitment to our parish and the Orthodox faith. This commitment to our parish is my greatest hope and prayer.

Believe it or not, we are still the second largest parish in the Diocese of New England but only by a handful. There are 44 married couples of which 18 are both Orthodox. We have 18 members who are at home or in assisted living facilities. Our average age is a little under 52 years old. We have 23 children from 13 to 4 months and 39 members who are 70+. We continue to have the most members and the highest dollar amount given to ONE Stewards as well as the most members of the Bishop's Circle. This continues to be an example to many in the Diocese of New England.

*Liturgical and Sacramental Life*

The liturgical life of the parish **is** and **should be** the center of our community life. We cannot stress this enough: In any Orthodox Christian parish the most important part of community life is worship. For me this is the most important part of my life as an Orthodox Christian and a priest. Our Orthodox Christian worship, lengthy and elaborate, reminds all who participate in it or witness it of that central truth that we worship this way in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, most of the faithful members of the parish regularly receive Holy Communion and almost all members of the parish participate in the sacrament of private and personal Confession at least twice a year, usually during Great Lent and Advent. Also, all parishioners are encouraged to participate in the monthly General Confession although many do not take advantage of this rite. General Confession, of course, is only a supplement to and certainly not a replacement for participation in the private and personal Confession. We should all remind ourselves that the **privilege** of regularly and frequently receiving Holy Communion is not something to be taken lightly. We are expected to prepare carefully before receiving Holy Communion with participation in Great Vespers, prayer and fasting. [*Prayers in Preparation for Holy Communion – St. Basil the Great: "I know, O Lord, that I have communed unworthily of Thy most pure Body and Thy most precious Blood, that I am guilty and drink condemnation to myself.."*]

Our entire "church life" should include daily prayer, weekly and seasonal fasting, acts of kindness and charity, regular participation in the sacrament of Confession, participation in the full cycle of liturgical services: including Saturday evening Vespers, Sunday Divine Liturgy, major Feast Day services. During Great Lent we celebrate the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesday evenings and the Akathist to the Theotokos. Our Holy Week schedule has two services each day from Holy Monday through Pascha. We should study of Scripture and the Church's history in an effort to witness and share The Faith whenever possible. All of this may seem like a lot and we do have busy lives but Christ and our relationship with Him and His church needs to be primary. And this is not just for us adults, but our children as well. May God help us to grow in our ability to prepare for and live in function of our fellowship with Him in the Holy Sacraments.

*Choir*

As I stated last year, there aren't enough words and time will not allow me to carry-on about the choir. Under the direction of Chris Dresko, together with those who assist, they make our liturgical service amazing. The choir is an integral part of our liturgical worship and I thank all those who sing.

*Education*

Many thanks go out to our teachers Aylcin Pulcini and Dori Ann Kowar who have guided our young people with Church School every other week but the "dynamic duo" will be broken up at the end of this semester with the "retirement" of Aylcin. We will need some to step in and help Dori in September. Again I remind parents that even on the Sundays when we don't have church school or for other services our kids need to feel as though they are members of the parish family. Our Movie Night continues to be a favorite with a number of faithful from our church as well as sister parishes. We try to schedule one before or early in Lent and another in the fall. Thanks to the Ann & Mark Myszka, our organizers and "concessioners" but they too will have to turn this over to someone.

*Stewardship and Outreach*

This past year everyone took a good look at our parish financial situation and stepped up with their pledge and weekly donations. When the call went out from the Finance Committee for all of us to again look at our parish finances and to increase our giving and sign our pledge card, it took a little while but a great number of us have increased our giving. We still have a few people who haven't signed yet but

there is still time. The generosity of the faithful continues to grow with our monthly charity collection and our participation in ONE Stewards. Numerous organizations are extremely grateful for the financial assistance we provide and look forward to our help each year. The support by the Men's Club for Youth Rally is greatly appreciated by the staff and kids.

We need to continue our efforts in outreach both to our sister parishes in New Britain and Connecticut and the greater community. I know that we are extremely busy with work and family but this is where we need to focus our efforts. We will have a "community picnic" on our parish feastday of Pentecost. Again I call for us to get involved with here at home by visiting our "super" seniors who are at home or in assisted living facilities. It is true many of our younger parishioners don't know these people but those who have been around for a while surely have a moment to spare for a visit and to remember old times.

*Looking back, looking forward and Thank you!*

With the celebration of our Second 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary behind us, which was a joyous and tremendously successful occasion, we look to writing our history. Physically, in the spring we will complete the extended parking area and grounds keeping around the church. There are some areas within & without the church building that will be attended to also. As a parish family, I look forward to us spending more time together, both "in church" and at social events. Back in those early days of our parish the church was the center of life, but today we have multiple outside activities. I would love for one of those, maybe even the first, to be us gathering as Orthodox family.

I am always thankful for all the dedicated individuals who, as we pray in the Augmented Litany; "*labor and serve*" – but this year there are a couple of people who deserve special recognition (I will get to them in a minute). Thanks to all those who served on the Parish Council; For the Sisterhood and Men's Club led by Ellen Santoro and Paul Culton; For David & Phyllis Bartos, being the keepers of the coffee hour list and filling in at a moment's notice; For Ellen Santoro & Jillian Wanik who bake the prosphora and cinnamon bread; and "*for those who love the beauty of Thy house*" all those who have volunteered (before or after some arm twisting) to keep our church clean each week.

There aren't enough "gramotas" for these next few parishioners to thank them for going above and beyond. They aren't "workaholics" for the awards but for the love of their parish. Firstly, George Ludko, who for at least the past 8 years has been Financial Secretary, tutor & guide, Treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee, doing the ground work for our parish investment plan (which we will hear about later). Now he will be taking a well deserved break from these activities and become a "regular" parishioner. Ed & Marion Bichun who organize the work crews and do a lot of the preparation for the baking of poppyseed & nut rolls, breads and cooking vareniki (pierogi) to help raise funds in support of our parish. They bring joy to many with their culinary treats. Dan Bradanini, Co-chairman of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, who is always available to meet with contractors, inspectors, city officials, etc. concerning the technical aspects in maintaining and repairing our church building. He speaks their language and is able to maximize their efforts while minimizing our spending. And last but not least, George Matyczyk, Co-Chairman of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, Parish Sexton and Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. George handles so many behind the scene items; candles, snowplowing, trees, grass, supplies, meeting with vendors, etc. Time would not permit mentioning all of them in detail. With all this in his hands he should be considered the best juggler in the world. This George is also looking forward to lightening his load so we will need others to pick-up some of his tasks. For each of these we have a "Parish Gramota" and our deep gratitude for your stewardship at HTOC.

We need everyone's help and participation in everything that goes on here. All of us have been give talents by God and need to use them for

the building and strengthening of this vineyard which was planted by the right hand of our Lord. As the "faithful remnant" of those who established this parish and built this beautiful house of prayer, may God continue to bless our parish of Holy Trinity. With His help we can make things happen in our parish!

#### **Warden's Report:**

Full text included below:

I thank you. So many of you honor our church with your time and talent. So many work behind the scenes, treasurer, Building and Grounds, the choirs, the Ad Hoc committees, the outreach groups, the church School teachers, The Bichun for the baking and on and on special thanks to George Ludko and George Myaska. I want to specially thank Mutuska Melanie for her effort in community outreach. Community Outreach is not a program. It is not a grant. It is not money. Outreach is about changing lives, most of all, our own. Our city is facing a growing problem with homelessness affordable housing and we have special calling to assist children that are going without basic needs. HTOC is capable of transforming the community, Transforming, We must not do what we have done because it is comfortable, because it is the status quo. We must ask harder questions in to which we are called as leaders in this area, but accepting the stewardship and the risks that will be required.

#### **Financial Report:**

Al Hromi reviewed the 2013 budget: Budgeted \$117,014.00, total income \$175,206.73, total expense \$180,111.38, expense over income -\$4,904.65. Some clarifications: A lot of the money is "pass-through." For example, the choir raised money that was used for the choir, but it passed through the general fund so it is reflected on the report. Miscellaneous expenses look like a large figure, but \$2,500 was for new vestments. The property taxes were an extra \$1,900 that weren't anticipated (left over from house demolition). Approximately \$13,000 was spent for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The budget was very closed to being perfectly balanced because of the hard work of the finance committee and everyone who met or exceeded their pledge.

George Ludko presented a 3-page statement of financial accounts. Summary: total assets \$1,278,971.13. Merrill Lynch Investment balance on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 was \$825,906.66 and by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 was \$1,024,261.54 for interest and dividends of \$22,255. This amount will be rolled over for further investment. At some future date whenever deemed appropriate, this money could be used for operating expense. Bissland Operating Account began 2013 at \$253,073.39 and ended the year at \$220,217.36. The difference of \$34,884.13 was spent on improvements to the exterior (sidewalks) and interior (lift, downstairs lights) of the church.

George Ludko made a motion to accept the report. Marion Bichun seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Cemetery Report:**

Al Hromi presented the figures as follows: total income of \$11,841.99 and expense of \$11,154.01 for income over expense of \$687.98. Dan Bradanini made a motion to accept. Diane Dounouk seconded. Motion carried

#### **Choir Director's Report:**

Chris Dresko reported that he will soon complete his 5<sup>th</sup> year as choir director. He thanked Father David for his kind words. Chris feels blessed to work with the choir members and also feels blessed to have such a strong choir at Holy Trinity. The choir visited nursing homes after Christmas. They plan to visit nursing homes the Saturday after Pascha to bring the joy to those in the homes. Chris thanked Juliana Koles for her service, as she will be leaving for Boston after her wedding. He also thanked Margaret Wagner for the idea of the Pascha card and Ann Myszka for her work on coordinating them. Ann will be greatly missed when she leaves later this year as well. Looking forward to another good year. Al Hromi made a motion to accept, Ellen

Santoro seconded, motion carried.

### **Parish Organizations:**

*Sisterhood* – Ellen Santoro, president, reported the following figures: Starting balance of \$11,684.03, income \$1,134.86, expense \$2,596.25, expense/income -\$1,461.39 for ending balance of \$10,222.64. Highlights of the year include a 10% pledge of its income to the church. \$477 to Janet Mihalik, \$700 for church banquet, ad & landscaping, \$300 to ONE Stewards. \$225 was raised from the bake sale. The money raised by the Bichun's was donated directly to the church. Beth Bradanini made a motion to accept, Diane Polzun seconded, motion carried.

*Men's Club* – Paul Culton, president, reported the following figures: Starting balance of \$14,364.75, expenses of \$5,913.75. Highlights include: \$4,000 for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (half used for banquet the other half used for lodging/tickets for guests), Mother's Day flowers, \$100 to St. Nicholas Church in Pittsfield, \$300 for shut-in cards, \$500 for youth rally, the Rock-Cats outing and the golf outing. Ending balance was \$11,189.31. Next year, the Men's Club plans to cover \$500 for Project Mexico in the 2014 parish budget. Dan Bradanini made a motion to accept, Al Hromi seconded, motion carried.

*Church School* – Gladys Labas made a motion to table this item until a report from teachers is given. We will need another teacher as one is leaving. Ellen Santoro seconded, motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Building and Grounds:**

Dan Bradanini reported that all of the planned improvements from last year were not completed due to the pent up demand for construction. The reason for delay was that the bids came back unreasonably high and an alternative was sought. Work on the sidewalks was completed and looks great. Parking lot expansion was on hold. This past Fall, a new bid for the parking lot came in between 40% - 50 less than last years overpriced bids. The \$250,000 approved last year will be ample, as only roughly \$70,000 will be needed. The committee wanted to be careful about how the church's money is spent.

This year's projects: Finish parking lot in the spring, re-caulk/seal the exterior of the church, convert the garage into storage space.

Diane Dounouk made a motion to accept the report, Paul Salina seconded. Discussion: Ellen Santoro noted that there is still an odd height step into the front entrance of the church. Dan explained that the trip hazard (crumbling concrete) has been fixed. He will see if only one step can be altered without affecting the others. Motion carried.

George Matczyk listed accomplishments for 2013:

#### Church property:

- Painting and lighting improvements
- Tore down parish home – many thanks to Dan Bradanini
- Basement church school and kitchen updates
- New cabinet, sink, and floor in altar area
- Sidewalk, stairs, retaining walls redone
- Removed bushes/trees and re-graded property
- Upgraded church sign
- New light for parking lot from street
- New fire escape

#### Cemetery Work:

- Removed old gate and sign – replaced with new pillars and sign
- Tore down vault and re-graded surface
- Planted new trees
- Removed stockade fence and put in vinyl
- Planted new pussy-willow bushes
- Cutting more bushes and trees
- New caretaker – Joe Baraglia (John's son) kept up quality work that his father did. (His new pay schedule actually costs less

- per job vs. salary)

New grave-digger hired

#### Proposed future projects:

Exterior brick is chipping and needs re-pointed for about the first 6 feet. We will get day-rate \$850/day (3 men, 8hour/day, materials). A maximum of 6 days should complete the project for a total of \$5,100.

Power-wash and silicon treatment: \$11,875.

Landscaping total: \$3,400

George Matczyk motioned to approve the \$22,000 needed to complete all the projects. Brian Veek seconded. Discussion: Chris Dresko suggested \$25,000 to be safe – George and Brian amended their motions. George Ludko suggested pursuing another bid for the silicon treatment as it seemed rather high. Ellen Santoro cautioned than certain landscaping roots could disrupt sidewalks. George Matzysk would be sure to check into both concerns. Motion carried for \$25,000.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Proposed 2014 Budget**

Al Hromi presented slightly amended figures based on newly received pledges: pledged cash donations of \$122,146. This creates a final deficit budget of -\$32,799.

Clarifications: Expenses for 2014 are slightly less than what was budgeted for last year. The committee has massaged and trimmed all the numbers the best they can. The diocese dictates some items such as Clergy salary, Fair Share, and pension. Under "Church Support" the line items are intact with hopes that they will be picked up by parish organizations – ex. Men's Club will fund \$500 for Project Mexico. Dan Bradanini moved to accept. Nick Dresko seconded. Discussion: Diane Dounouk mentioned that over \$400 was raised by book sale. Paul Salina mentioned that everyone has been very cost conscious and the budget is down significantly from what he remembers in the past. The work is being done in a judicious manner. Motion carried.

#### **2014 Parish Council Nomination**

Dave Bartos motioned to accept the 2014 corrected ballot. Ellen Santoro seconded. No nominations from the floor. Results of the election as follows:

Finance Treasurer – Nelson Potter

Auditor – Rosemary Delaney

At Large - Diane Dounouk

Father announced that February 16 would be the installation of the next council. The first meeting will be February 24.

#### **Diocesan Assembly Delegate**

Phyllis Bartos nominated Rosemary Delaney, who accepted. Dianne Polzun seconded. Assembly will be held on Oct. 24 and 25, 2014 in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Motion carried.

#### **From the floor**

Marion Bichun thanked everyone who comes to help her and Eddie with the baking

Phyllis Bartos mentioned that fixing kitchen exit from the basement should be a priority

George Matczyk inquired about the status of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet and how many will be printed

Beth Bradanini asked for a new parish directory; Father will reprint

Paul Salina motioned for adjournment at 12:50PM. Ellen Santoro seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with "It is Truly Meet."

Submitted by,

*Nick Kokus*