

Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church  
13 Pembroke Road, Danbury, CT 06811

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church  
121 Beaver St. New Britain, CT 06051

Week of January 11th, 2026

Parish Rectory: (203) 743-1106

Church Hall: (203) 628-7997

Church: [stnicholasdanbury@icloud.com](mailto:stnicholasdanbury@icloud.com)

Father Stephen: [FrStephenRusso@gmail.com](mailto:FrStephenRusso@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stnicholasdanbury.org](http://www.stnicholasdanbury.org)

Served by: Father Stephen R. Russo, Pastor

Father Anthony DeFronzo, Emeritus

Cantors: Mr. Randy Weyant, Ms Ann Schlain

Trustees: Ms Ann Devine, Mr David Fanning

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Saturday, Jan 10th -Anticipation of Sunday after Theophany**  
**3:00 PM** Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, New Britain  
Intention: Health and Blessing of Fr. Tony DeFronzo

**Sunday, Jan. 11th – Sunday after Theophany**  
**9:00 AM** St. Nicholas, Danbury, CT  
Intention: Health and Blessing of Sharon Siwik

**Sunday, Jan. 11th – Great Blessing of the Water Ways**  
**12:30 PM** Candlewood Park Danbury, CT

**Saturday, Jan 17th - Anticipation for Sunday,**  
**3:00 PM** Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, New Britain  
Intention: For Holy Trinity Parish Growth and Wellbeing

**Sunday, Jan. 18th - Sunday of Zacchaeus**  
**9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Danbury  
Intention: + Michael Devine, Fr. Stephen & Heather

## **Coats for the Homeless**

The **Order of the Holy Sepulchre** is sponsoring a **Coats for the Homeless** project to provide new winter coats for our neighbors in need. Monetary donations will be collected **next week** to support the purchase of coats that will be **blessed and distributed to homeless men and women in Connecticut**. Your generosity will help bring warmth, dignity, and Christ's love to those facing the cold this winter.

## **Reflections for the Sunday after Theophany:**

1. The First Morning: A man drank a small cup of holy water before sunrise, just as he did every year after Theophany. He said it helped him remember that his life had been claimed by Christ long before the day began. Even before the world called him to work, he belonged to God.

2. The Blessed Door: A priest marked the doorway with holy water as he blessed a home. A woman quietly whispered, "Now even my leaving and my returning are under God's care." Theophany reminds us that every step we take can begin and end with grace.

3. The Quiet Kitchen: Holy water sat beside a loaf of bread on the kitchen table. No one said a prayer out loud, but everyone felt one in their hearts. When God's blessing enters a home, even ordinary moments become holy.

4. The Light on the Snow: Fresh snow glistened as the priest blessed the waters outside the church. Someone smiled and said, "Even winter looks different now." Christ has touched all creation, and nothing is quite the same again.

## **Miraculous Icon: Mary, Helper of Mothers" (Theotokos of Mukachevo)**

Will visit our parish in January, which has been linked to answered prayers and miraculous births. The icon is a treasure of our eparchy, **copied from the icon of Our Lady of Mukachevo**, A highly revered icon, especially for expectant mothers. We will have events open to the public and can use some help organizing and composing media announcements. Please see Fr. Stephen if you would like to help.

January Birthdays

Brittany Grabcsak	January 1
Abbie Stephenson	January 6
Steven Sedlak	January 6
Sharon Siwik	January 10
Olexandra Lopez	January 11
Leah Rivera	January 29
Anne Caruso	January 29

May God Grant Them Many Happy And Blessed Years

(If there are any missing or incorrect, please inform Fr. Stephen)

Christmas Offertory Dec 25: \$2913.00, Dec. 28: \$2697.00

Thank you for your continued support of our Church!

# Sunday Before Theophany — Preparing for the Manifestation of Christ

## Epistle (2 Timothy 4:5–8)

Saint Paul speaks as one who has remained faithful to the end, urging perseverance, self-discipline, and trust in God’s promise. As Theophany approaches, the Church hears this reading as a call to steadfast faith, reminding us that Christ’s revelation invites a life lived with purpose, endurance, and hope.

## Gospel (Mark 1:1–8)

The Gospel opens with the proclamation of the “beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” immediately directing our attention to **John the Baptist**. John’s call to repentance prepares the people for the coming of the Lord, while his humility points beyond himself to Christ, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. This Gospel teaches that repentance and readiness are essential before Christ is revealed at the Jordan.

## Spiritual Theme

Placed just before Theophany, these readings teach that divine revelation requires preparation. Before Christ is manifested in glory, hearts must be awakened through repentance, faithfulness, and expectation.



# Living Our Byzantine Heritage:

## Byzantine Traditions of Theophany

### The Blessing of Water

At Theophany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. A central tradition of the feast is the **Great Blessing of Water**, reminding us that Christ has sanctified all creation. The faithful take blessed water home to drink, to bless their homes, and to remember their own baptism.

### Theophany Greeting

During the feast, Byzantine Christians greet one another with the joyful proclamation:

**“Christ is baptized!”**

and respond: **“In the Jordan!”**

This greeting continues the Church’s living proclamation that Christ has entered the waters to bring light and renewal to the world.

### Blessing of Homes

Following Theophany, it is customary for priests to bless the homes of the faithful. This tradition invites Christ into our daily lives, asking that our homes may be places of peace, protection, and faith throughout the year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please see Fr. Stephen to schedulat

### Light and Renewal

Theophany is sometimes called the “Feast of Lights,” because Christ is revealed openly as the Son of God. Just as the waters are blessed, the faithful are called to renew their lives, shining with the light of Christ in the world.



# Blessing of the Waterways – January 11

**Sunday, January 11th at 12:30 PM!** Hatters Park Danbury This year, we joyfully reestablish the beautiful **Theophany tradition of blessing the waterways**. As Christ descended into the Jordan for His Baptism, we will gather at a Danbury park (details will be finalized shortly) along the edge of **Candlewood Lake** to bless the waters and proclaim the sanctification of all creation. We also welcome participation from our sister **Eastern Christian churches** as a sign of unity and shared faith. Please plan to join us for this grace-filled celebration! **We can use some assistance in organizing this event. If you are interested, please see Fr. Stephen. It would be very nice to have some warm drinks and some desserts to share after the service.** In the

**Eastern Catholic Church**, Theophany is one of the most profound and ancient feasts of the liturgical year. It commemorates the **first public manifestation of the Holy Trinity**: the Father's voice proclaiming Jesus as His beloved Son, the Son standing in the waters, and the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. Through the Baptism of Christ, the waters—and all creation—are blessed and renewed. This feast reminds us of our own baptismal calling and the grace that continues to sanctify our lives.



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## **Envelopes & Calendars**

The 2026 Envelopes and 2026 Liturgical Calendars are available for pick up in the Annex at St. Nicholas and on the credence table at honly Trinity

## **Bishop's Appeal**

The 2025 Bishop's Appeal is a vital way that we, as one Church, support the mission and ministries of the Eparchy of Passaic. Through the generosity of the faithful, the Appeal provides essential resources that strengthen our parishes and serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of our clergy, seminarians, families, and those in need.

Gifts to the Bishop's Appeal help fund priestly formation, support retired and ill clergy, provide religious education and youth ministry, assist parishes with growth and outreach, and sustain the charitable works of our Eparchy. While each parish is unique, we all benefit from the stability, guidance, and shared resources made possible through the Appeal.

The 2025 Bishop's Appeal will run **through the end of our fiscal year, June 1, 2026**. Contributions received **prior to December 31, 2025** will count toward the **2025 tax year**, and acknowledgment letters for tax purposes will be **mailed before January 31, 2026**.

By supporting the Bishop's Appeal, we give witness to our unity as one Byzantine Catholic family and our shared responsibility for the life of the Church. Through prayer and generous giving, we help ensure that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed and Christ's love made present throughout our Eparchy—now and for generations to come.