



Church website: [www.hrocby.org](http://www.hrocby.org)

Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

*Holy Resurrection  
Orthodox Church*

222 Mary Street, Rostraver Township, PA  
(Serving the faithful of Belle Vernon and surrounding areas)

Reverend Father Stephan Gresh

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Ordained Reader

& Choir Master: Peter Merella: (724) 787-2031

**March 3, 2024**

**Sunday of the Prodigal  
Son**

*Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!*

**Services Sat., Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> Great Vespers with Confession 6 pm**

**Sun., Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> Meatfare Sunday – Last Judgment**

**Holy Martyr Quadraius &  
companions: Cyprian & Dionysius**

Sunday School **9:15 am**

Hours **9:45 am**

Divine Liturgy **10 am**

**\*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and  
mind  
for Sunday Liturgy.**

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46

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| <b>Tone 6 Troparion</b><br>(Resurrection)<br>The Angelic <u>Powers</u><br>were at Thy tomb; the<br>guards became as<br><u>dead</u> men.<br>Mary <u>stood</u> by Thy<br>grave, seeking Thy<br>most pure <u>body</u> .<br>Thou didst capture<br>hell not being<br><u>tempted</u> by it.<br>Thou didst come to<br>the Virgin, <u>granting</u><br>life.<br>O Lord, Who didst<br><u>rise</u> from the dead, //<br><u>glory</u> to Thee.. | <b>Tone 3 Kontakion</b><br>(from the Lenten<br>Triodion)<br>I have <u>recklessly</u><br>forgotten Thy glory,<br>O <u>Father</u> ; and<br>among sinners I<br>have scattered the<br>riches which Thou<br><u>gavest</u> me.<br>And now I cry to<br>Thee as the<br><u>Prodigal</u> :<br>“I have sinned<br>before Thee, O<br>merciful <u>Father</u> ;<br>receive me as a<br><u>penitent</u> , // and<br>make me as <u>one</u> of<br>Thy <u>hired</u> <u>servants</u> !” | <b>Tone 6</b><br><b>Prokeimenon</b><br>(Resurrection)<br>O Lord, save Thy<br>people, / and bless<br>Thine inheritance!<br>(Ps. 27:9a)<br>V. <i>To Thee, O</i><br><i>Lord, will I call. O</i><br><i>my God, be not</i><br><i>silent to me!</i> (Ps.<br>27:1a) |
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## Epistle

(1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For “*the two*,” He says, “*shall become one flesh*.”

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

## Gospel

(Luke 15:11-32)

Then He said: **“A certain man had two sons.**

**“And the younger of them said to *his* father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.’ So he divided to them *his* livelihood.**

**“And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.**

**“But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.**

**“Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.**

**“And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.**

**“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!**

**“I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,**

**“and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.””**

**“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.**

**“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’**

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet.

“And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry;

“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

“So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

“And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.

“So he answered and said to *his* father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.

“But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.

“It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

**Announcements:**

This month’s Parish Council meeting is **Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

Our home bounds appreciate all the greetings that are sent out during the holiday seasons. Unfortunately, we often forget about them the rest of the year. Please try to take a few minutes to check on them throughout the year. Even better, take some time to visit them, check to see if they are in need of anything and just make them feel as if they are part of our Church community/family. The blessing that they bestow upon us for simple acts of kindness are beyond our comprehension. An **UPDATED** home bound list is an insert in today’s bulletin.

***Paska! Paska! Paska!*** *Nothing* could replace this precious tradition to celebrate the joyous Resurrection! The men and women of HROC will be rolling up their sleeves **TWICE** during the weeks leading up to Pascha to assure that past and new customers will have this wonderful delicacy to enjoy for their Easter. Pick up your Baba’s Paska Order Form at the candlestand.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This form is to be used to order Paskas for **BOTH** Western Easter (March 31<sup>st</sup>) **and** Pascha (May 5<sup>th</sup>). Please note that the last two columns on the form are where you are to indicate **for which Easter your Paska is needed** and will help organize the orders.

The orders are due **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please leave your orders at the candle stand. Due to the large demand for Baba's Paska, no orders can be accepted after the due date. Please remember to include telephone numbers on the order form.

The baking session for orders placed for March 31<sup>st</sup> is **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

The baking session for orders placed for May 5<sup>th</sup> is **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one and/or both baking sessions. **Both sessions will start at 7 am.**

This year, Baba will be making an extra treat for the Paschal Celebration – Cheese Braids! We are not taking orders for them but will be getting together to make a few batches on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 am**. Please come and lend a hand and get “warmed up” for Paska Baking!

### **Save the Date:**

- Save the date for an upcoming retreat at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral to be held on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Presenter Steven Christoforou has spent 9 years as the founder and leader of Y2AM and is perhaps best known for his work on “Be the Bee”, “Pop Culture Coffee Hour”, and “Effective Christian Ministry”. He is a graduate of Yale University, Fordham University School of Law, and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He is currently the Director of Operations & Community Engagement for FOCUS North America. Steve will be providing a retreat entitled “What Do People Need from the Church?: How to lead Effective Christian Ministry” focusing on why most young people who grow up in the Church fall away as they grow into young adults. Why is the ministry they experience falling short? What can the Church do to form faithful Orthodox Christians more effectively? In his presentation, Steve will distill years of research and experience as he helps participants understand (i) why our ministry efforts have been ineffective, (ii) what people need from the Church and (iii) how we can meet those needs in 5 basic practices. To register contact Fr. David Vernak ([frdavidvernak@verizon.net](mailto:frdavidvernak@verizon.net) or 201/704-6217). Registration fee for the retreat is \$20.
- Pi Day is celebrated every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March around the world. Pi is used to represent a mathematical constant. Not only is it the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, but it's also the 16<sup>th</sup> letter in the Greek alphabet ( $\pi$ ). Coffee Hour will be celebrating  $\pi$  Day on **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** with a selection of pies. Do you have a favorite apple, blackberry, pumpkin, etc. pie you would like to share? Or how about a savory creation like a pizza pie, a Shepard's pie, etc.? Coffee will be in abundance as we enjoy a slice of delicious!
- The Miraculous Myrrh Streaming Kardiotissa Icon of the Theotokos from Taylor, PA will be at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Monongahela on **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. A prayer service with this icon will begin **at 7 p.m.** Fr. Mark Leasure, custodian of the icon from St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA will share many of the miraculous stories associated with the icon.