



Church website: www.hrocby.org

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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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August 16, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Sat., Aug. 15 th	Feast of the Holy Dormition	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Aug. 16 th	Image of Christ "Not made by hands"	
		Saint Joachim of Osogovo	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
	Mon., Aug. 17 th	Holy Martyr Myron Presbyter	
		Holy Martyrs Paul & Juliana	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am

Please Note: Fr. Stephan and Matushka will be away August 17-22. Father John Parker of St. Nicholas, Donora will be covering any pastoral needs in his absence and can be reach at (719) 332-3925 (cell).

Epistle

(1 Corinthians 4:9-16)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but you *are* wise in Christ! We *are* weak, but you *are* strong! You *are* distinguished, but we *are* dishonored!

To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*.

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel *(Matthew 17:14-23)*

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,

“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

“So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, **“O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”**

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, **“Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.**

“However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, **“The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,**

“and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 23-35

Announcements:

Fr. Stephan has received notice from Chancellor, Fr. Bill that Archbishop MELCHISEDEK will be **postponing his visit until September 6th**.

Thanks for everyone’s prayers the past two weeks. We are doing well. The person who was diagnosed with Covid-19 is out of the hospital and recovering at home. Fr. Stephan talked to them again Wednesday night and they are feeling much better. They expressed their thanks for your prayers.

Services are back to our new “normal”. Liturgies are scheduled for Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. Vespers are also scheduled for Saturday evening.

HELP WANTED, NO EXPERIENCE or SPECIAL TRAINING NECESSARY, HOURS FLEXIBLE! Where could you find a help wanted ad like this? Help is needed in tackling the weeds that have been growing around the church. With the donation of some of your time to fill a plastic grocery bag with weeds you can put a tremendous dent into this project. Please consider stopping by the church whenever you can to lend a hand! It’s a great opportunity to get out as well as maintaining social distancing! ***Teamwork works wonders!*** Thank you in advance. Please bring your own gardening equipment.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the grounds keeping!
Keep up the good work!

1. We continue evaluating our opportunities as protocols are updated. Stay tuned for updates!
2. A reminder that masks now mandatory in public spaces where the general public is admitted.
3. If you are not well, please contact Father so that he can let others fill the opening.
4. Father is no longer requiring parishioners to schedule for Saturdays or Mondays. We usually have a few openings on those days. Sundays, however, still need to be scheduled.

From Fr. Stephan:

Recently, parishioners, as well as friends, neighbors, and even strangers who recognize me as a clergy express their concerns in regards to the civil/political unrest as well as the corona virus situation.

Now, more than ever, we need to come together as the “Body of Christ“ and let the “Light of Christ” shine through us. I am going to ask that everyone in the parish add these special petitions to their daily prayers.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You come to our aid now during the global spread of the Coronavirus and be with the families of those who are sick and who have died. May the sick regain their strength and health, and as they worry and grieve, defend them from further illness and despair. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Give wisdom and strength to our federal government, our state governments, together with the leaders of all nations, and give them foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve. Give them the added wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for and prevent future outbreaks. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You be with the doctors, nurses, researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. We pray that You stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, we pray that You stay with us as we endure and mourn, prepare, and persist. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Petitions at the Augmented Litany in a Time of Civil Unrest

Again we pray for this country and for all its cities, towns, and countrysides that are riven by strife; for all those who are victims of violence, of hatred and injustice, of disorder and unrest, and especially for those who have been killed, that they might find their repose in thee; for all who are beset by anger and fear; for those in civil authority and all who enforce the law; and for all the people of this land: for justice, godly liberty, mercy, a peaceful life, and remission of our sins. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray that all people of this land, its rulers and authorities, its citizens and all who reside here, might be enlightened with the light of thy Gospel and thy commandments, unto peace and good order and love for one another, so that we might easily and safely pass from our temporary homeland here to, our true homeland with thee in heaven. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Update from Fr. Stephan:

Westmoreland and the surrounding counties are currently “green”, however, protocols are updated almost weekly. To continue maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our parishioners, we are keeping our attendance number at 25 at each of the three services in addition to following the below Precautions. As we continue to endure during these difficult and trying times, we must remember “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind.*” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Precautions that are now in place include:

- a) We will ***maintain social distancing***. Every other pew has been taped off. This provides 6’3” between rows. The center isle is 5’ wide so available rows alternate from side to side. For right now we are asking that two people sit in each pew unless they are a family group. This may change as things open up further.
- b) ***Masks are now mandatory in public spaces where the general public is admitted***. Example: when you come to communion Fr. Stephan will wear a mask so that you will be able to receive.
- c) Fr. Stephan will use an ***individual spoon for each communicant***. Every spoon will be cleaned and sanitized by Fr. Stephan.
- d) ***One of the parish council members will act as a greeter*** opening the doors and help to facilitate activities.
- e) There will be ***NO congregating at the candle stand***. The prayer/candle forms will be available in the pews. Fill them out at your seats. Drop in baskets at the candle stand.
- f) The ***doors are required to be locked at the start of service*** so please plan to be early! Signs will be posted on the doors.
- g) ***Fr. Stephan will continue to call to schedule***. If you sign up for a day and are not going to be able to attend, let Fr. Stephan know ASAP so that someone else has the opportunity to attend. Fr. Stephan is required to keep a log of every one who attends.
- h) The Church is cleaned and sanitized after each service. Please be considerate and make our jobs easier. ***If you use a service book please leave it on the pew so that it can be sanitized.***