



Church website: [www.hrocbv.org](http://www.hrocbv.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

Cell Phone: (937) 869-8037

Rectory Phone: (724) 929-9194

Email: [stephangresh@gmail.com](mailto:stephangresh@gmail.com)

Ordained Reader

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

**August 23, 2020**

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

<b>Services</b>	Sun., Aug. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Leave of Dormition; Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons</b>	
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>
	Mon., Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hieromartyr Eutyches; St. Cosmas the Aitolian, Equal-to-the Apostles</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>

**Epistle**

*(1 Corinthians 9:2-12)*

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those who examine me is this:

Do we have no right to eat and drink?

Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working?

Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a *mere* man? Or does not the law say the same also?

For it is written in the law of Moses, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.*” Is it oxen God is concerned about?

Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things?

If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

**Gospel**  
(*Matthew 18:23-35*)

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

“And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

“But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

“The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

“Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

“So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

“And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

“So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

“Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

“And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

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

*Next Week -- Epistle:* 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 19:16-26

## **Announcements:**

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.*