



*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

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**September 6, 2020**

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

<b>Services</b>	Mon., Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Forefeast of Birth of the Theotokos; Martyr Sozon of Cilicia</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
	Tues., Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birth of the Holy Theotokos</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
	Sat., Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Leavetaking of the Birth of the Theotokos; Hieromartyr Autonomus</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
		<b>Great Vespers</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross; Consecration of the Church of the Resurrection in Zion; St. Cornelius the Centurion</b>	
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>
	Mon., Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Elevation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>

## Epistle

(1 Corinthians 16:13-24)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Let all *that you do* be done with love.

I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints –

that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s.

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.

My love *be* with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Gospel

(Matthew 21:33-42)

**“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.**

**“Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.**

**“And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.**

**“Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.**

**“Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’**

**“But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’**

**“So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.**

**“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”**

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, **“Have you never read in the Scriptures:**

***‘The stone which the builders rejected***

***Has become the chief cornerstone.***

***This was the LORD’s doing,***

***And it is marvelous in our eyes’?***

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

*Next Week -- Epistle:* 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 22:1-14

### **Announcements:**

To my friends and family at Holy Resurrection, I want to thank you for your prayers, candles, cards, phone calls and good wishes when I had my surgery done.

Thank you again and  
I wish you all well!

Ron Zeli

## **Welcome Archbishop MELCHISEDEK!**

## **May God Grant You Many Blessed Years!**

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.

**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.

### **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.***