



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

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## January 5, 2020

# Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**Services**      Mon., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

**Holy Theophany**

**Great Blessing of Water**

Hours

**8:45 am**

Divine Liturgy

**9 am**

Sat., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

**Great Vespers**

(Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)

**7 pm**

Sun., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

**Holy Martyr Tatiana of Rome and  
St. Sava, Archbishop of Serbia**

Church School

**9:15 am**

Hours

**9:45 am**

Divine Liturgy

**10 am**

**Epistle**  
*(I Corinthians 9:19-27)*

For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who beats the air*.

But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

**Gospel**  
*(Luke 3:1-18)*

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*“Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.*

*Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth;*

*and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?”

He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”

Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not,

John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

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

**Next Week:** Ephesians 4:7-13

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:12-17

## Hieromartyr Theopemptus and the Holy Martyr Theonas

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

Theopemptus was Bishop of Nicomedia in the time of Emperor Diocletian. When the emperor began his persecution of the Christians, the bishop was one of the first to suffer. Refusing to deny Christ, he was imprisoned, suffering starvation, beatings, and torture. At length a pagan man, Theonas, was brought in to persuade the noble bishop to deny the Faith, but by his steadfastness and the power of Christ, Theopemptus instead converted Theonas, who then also confessed himself a Christian. They were both condemned to death: Bishop Theopemptus was slain with the sword, while Theonas was buried alive. They suffered for the Lord in 298.

## Announcements:

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise wish to thank everyone who expressed holiday greetings through cards, gifts and messages. May God grant you many rich blessings this Christmas and in the year to come!

**"Shall We Gather at the River...."** The Mon Valley Clergy are planning to do a Theophany blessing of the Monongahela River at the Aquatorium in Monongahela on **January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.**

**Don't forget:** To submit your Home Blessings Envelopes this year.

The **2020 Church Calendars** have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

The annual "March for Life" (marking the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in the U.S.) is being held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Your prayers are requested for ALL to remember God's most precious and sacred gift to us ~ life!

**Collection:** Dec. 25th: \$2,760 & Dec. 29th: \$2,223