



Church website: 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

Cell Phone: (937) 869-8037

Rectory Phone: (724) 929-9194

Email: stephangresh@gmail.com

Ordained Reader

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

October 18, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Sat., Oct. 24 th	Holy Martyr Arethas & Companions	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Oct. 25 th	Holy Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius	
Hours		9:45 am	
Divine Liturgy		10 am	
	Mon., Oct. 26 th	Holy Great Martyr Demetrius	
Hours		8:45 am	
Divine Liturgy		9 am	

Epistle

(2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows –

how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel

(Luke 8:5-15)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

“Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

“And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

“But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.”
When He had said these things He cried, **“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”**

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, **“What does this parable mean?”**

And He said, **“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that**

*‘Seeing they may not see,
And hearing they may not
understand.’*

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

“Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

“But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

“Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

“But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Announcements:

Notes from Parish Council:

The parish council met this past week. One of the subjects on the agenda was in regard to the schedule of services. They extended their appreciation to both Peter and Marie for their dedicated service during this pandemic. Thanks to their efforts, the parish was able to maintain some level of normalcy during the chaos.

As of November 1st, we will be cutting back to two liturgies per week. Liturgy will be on Saturday and Sunday.

Can we tempt your taste buds???? When we were getting ready to bake Paska before the chaos of the pandemic, a few church members got together to bake nut rolls using up the last of the nuts from the Christmas baking. We have some nut rolls for sell at \$15 each. They taste great!

Perohi also available: Potato & Cheese (\$7.50 a doz.) and Sweet Cabbage (\$7.00 a doz.)

From Fr. Stephan:

Recently, parishioners, as well as friends, neighbors, and even strangers who recognize me as a member of the 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:

- 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) 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 basket at the candle area.
- f) ***Father Stephan will no longer be calling to ask you to schedule for services***. Being permitted to have 40 per service helps situation greatly. If you are able to come on a Saturday or a Monday from time to time please do! This will open some additional spaces on Sundays making it possible for everyone to start coming on a weekly basis.
- g) 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***.

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.

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.