



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

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Ordained Reader

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

### December 13, 2020

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

<b>Services</b>	Sun., Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Service for Servants of God <b>Katherine Dupay, Sophia Onufer, Edward Sterdis and Mary Elizabeth Adams</b> requested by their Families	<b>Following Liturgy</b>
	Sat., Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Martyr Boniface</b> Hours Divine Liturgy	<b>8:45 am 9 am</b>
		<b>Memorial Service</b> for those who have fallen asleep in the Darr Mine explosion 113 years ago. Weather permitting on the bike trail at the entrance to the mine. Weather not permitting, immediately following Liturgy at the church.	
		<b>Great Vespers</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St. Ignatius the God-Bearer, Archbishop of Antioch</b> Hours Divine Liturgy	<b>9:45 am 10 am</b>

### Epistle

(Colossians 3:4-1)

When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

## Gospel

(Luke 14:16-24)

Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,

“and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’

“But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’

“And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’

“Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

“So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.’

“And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’

“Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

‘For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”

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

*Next Week -- Epistle:* Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 1:1-25

### Announcements:

We are VERY close, by \$200, for A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS indeed! Because of everyone’s love and generosity, we will be able to make THREE families, yes three families’ holidays very special! Below are our “adopted” families:

Longo: 1<sup>st</sup> year Seminarian – Solomon, Anna, George 6 yo, Theodore 5 yo,  
Ephraim 4 yo, Athanasius 2 yo, Abraham 2 mo

McDonald: Fr. Matthew and Mat. Christine, Sophia 12 yo, Aidan 7 yo, Eve 1 yo

Saunders: Anthony and Martha, Anna 3 yo and Emilia 1 yo

Thanks to everyone and God Bless! As mentioned earlier, we are also sending along some of Julia’s handmade colorful hats and headbands with our monetary gifts.

Don’t forget, we need to remember and visit our Home-Bound Parishioners especially over the holiday season! See today’s bulletin insert for an **UPDATED** listing of our Home-Bound Parishioners. All of these folks are very appreciative that their parish has not forgotten them and enthusiastically send their love to all here at HROC. *If you know of a person who needs to be added to it, please let Father Stephan know.*

**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 the Diocese and Fr. Stephan 11/19/20:

- 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.
- b) ***\*\* Masks and/or face shields are now a requirement*** while on church property for any gatherings. However, 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.

- e) ***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 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.
- f) 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.***