



Church website: www.hrocby.org

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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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December 20, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Thurs., Dec. 24 th	Vigil of the Holy Nativity (Compline and Matins)	7 pm
	Fri., Dec. 25 th	Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ Carols Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am
	Sat., Dec. 26 th	<i>NO SCHEDULED SERVICES per Parish Council</i>	
	Sun., Dec. 27 th	Holy Protomartyr Stephen the Archdeacon Hours Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am

Epistle

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

of whom it was said, "*In Isaac your seed shall be called,*"

concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets:

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –

of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens* and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel

(Matthew 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah.

Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

*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: Matthew 2:13-23

Announcements:

Notes from Tuesday, December 15th Virtual Parish Council Meeting:

1. In order to protect the wellbeing of our parishioners, Council has asked Fr. Stephan to place a sign-up sheet for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services limiting attendance at the services to 35 people at the candlestand. With attendance being limited, please make every effort to attend the Christmas service you signed-up for. If you cannot attend, please let Fr. Stephan know so he can contact another who expresses an interest in attending. Please refer to the Listing of Services on the cover for service times. *Also note, these services will be live-streamed on Facebook. After the service has ended it will be uploaded to YouTube and will be available there and on the website.*
2. The Annual Parish Meeting has been penciled in for February 14, 2021 – date is subject to change.
3. Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021 at 7 pm.

Update on Our “Adopted” Seminarian Families’ Christmas Gifts: So far we have received over \$2,200 dollars for the seminarians and their families. The parish has already sent gifts to three families totaling \$1,800. The council asked if we could sponsor a fourth family with the remaining donations. **Thanks to everyone and God Bless!**

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.*

Christmas Altar Candles: Gifts are now being accepted for the Christmas Altar Candles. If you would like to make a gift in memory of loved ones or in honor of loved ones – place your offering in an envelope marking it “Christmas Candles” and leave it at the Candle Stand.

The *2021 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

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**.