



*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

Church website: [www.hrocbv.org](http://www.hrocbv.org)

Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

**February 16, 2020**

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

<b>Services</b>	Sat., Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Great Vespers</b> (Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Meatfare Sunday</b> <b>(Last Judgment) – Meat Fast All Week</b> Church School Hours Divine Liturgy	<b>9:15 am</b> <b>9:45 am</b> <b>10 am</b>

**Epistle**

*(1 Corinthians 6:12-20)*

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For “*the two*,” He says, “*shall become one flesh*.”

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

**Gospel**  
(Luke 15:11-32)

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.

"And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.' So he divided to them *his* livelihood.

"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

"But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

"Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

"And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

"and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet.

'And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry;

'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

"So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

"And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

"But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.

"So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.

'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

"And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.

"It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

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

*Next Week:* 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 25:31-46

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

Christ ate and feasted with tax-collectors and sinners, and this fact scandalized many. In response, He told stories of a man finding his lost sheep, a woman finding her lost coin—and a father finding his lost son. This final parable (all are found in St. Luke's Gospel) is particularly rich in detail, and it revolves ultimately around the conflict between the father's two sons. The Church focuses not on that conflict, nor on how the elder son should have rejoiced and feasted with his formerly lost brother, but on the love of the father.

The younger son was reckless and foolish. Leaving the love of the father's house, he wandered far from home and embraced a life of wantonness and sin. This choice led to its inevitable conclusion and left the boy desperate, destitute, and starving. To fend off starvation he was forced to take a job as a swineherd (the final indignity for a Jew), and even so he went to bed hungry each night. Then he came to his senses and decided to return home and humble himself before his father, not asking to be restored but simply asking for any job. With hunger burning in his stomach, he started the long way home.

While he was yet far off, the father spied him, for he was anxiously looking for any sign of his son's return. The father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and fell on his neck with joy. He did not even let him finish his rehearsed speech asking for a job, but insisted that the boy be restored, with festal robes, a ring, shoes, and a tremendous party, killing the calf that was fattening for just such an occasion. The boy, long feared dead, was alive and safe in the house of the father.

The Church offers us this story as we begin our Lenten repentance, for we also have scattered the riches the Father gave to us and need to return home to Him in repentance. The example of the prodigal son reveals what is awaiting us there: a loving embrace, restoration, and festal joy.

## Announcements:

The Annual Parish Meeting is **TODAY** during Coffee Hour. Stop by to grab a cup of coffee and hear about the state-of-YOUR-Parish. **MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED!**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave., McKees Rocks) will hold the 4th annual St. Nicholas Symposium on **Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 2 to 4 pm** presenting topics important to Orthodox Christians and those interested in Orthodox Christianity. This year, three outstanding speakers will give short presentations on the topic of "*Orthodox Perspectives on Prayer.*" The event is FREE and open to the public. Visit [orthodoxpittsburgh.org](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.org) for more information.

Attention Young Folks and the Young At Heart! The Archdiocese will be hosting a **Youth Bowling Party** from **2-4 pm** on **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Paradise Island Bowl (7601 Grand Ave., Pittsburgh). RSVP for Bowling by **February 17<sup>th</sup>** to Marcie Killmeyer at (412/445-8482 or [map\\_turtle@hotmail.com](mailto:map_turtle@hotmail.com)).

*Collection:* Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>: \$2,390