



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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Ordained Reader

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February 23, 2020

Services	Sun., Feb. 23 rd	40 th Day Memorial for the Repose of the Soul of the Servant of God, George Hatalowich , requested by his Family	After Liturgy
	Sat., Feb. 29 th	Great Vespers (Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)	7 pm
	Sun., Mar. 1 st	Cheesefare Sunday Church School Hours Divine Liturgy	9:15 am 9:45 am 10 am
**** Lent Begins at Sundown ****			
	Mon., Mar. 2 nd	Lenten Matins Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7 am 7 pm
	Tues., Mar. 3 rd	Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7 pm
	Wed., Mar. 4 th	Lenten Matins Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7 am 7 pm
	Thurs., Mar. 5 th	Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	7 pm
	Fri., Mar. 6 th	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Sun., Mar. 8 th	Sunday of Orthodoxy Church School Hours Divine Liturgy with Icon Procession Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers HROC, BV	9:15 am 9:45 am 10 am 5 pm

A reminder regarding fasting for Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgies... If you plan to attend and receive communion, you should fast from food and drink from your lunchtime meal onward. If you take medications, please follow the normal medical instructions.

A Note from Fr. Stephan Regarding the Lenten Season: Too often we only focus on fasting or attempting to fast during the season. Fasting is only one way to help bring us closer to God. I have two simple requests for us to reflect and act on:

1. Truly treat others as we want them to treat us.
2. Work on our prayer life. I am willing to open the Church anytime throughout Lent for anyone who would like to pray. The Church will be open from 5 a.m. until 9 a.m. during the first week of Lent in addition to the scheduled service.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! The annual “**Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal 11 Week Calendar**” is available for home reference to keep you abreast of all Parish and Deanery services for the coming Holy season. Pick yours up **TODAY** at the candlestand.

Epistle
(1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel
(Matthew 25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

“And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

‘for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

‘I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?’

‘When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?’

‘Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

‘for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

‘I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’

“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

Next Week:

Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel Reading:

Sunday of the Expulsion of Adam from Paradise By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

This last of the pre-Lenten Sundays is also called Cheesefare Sunday, since dairy is allowed on this final day before the fast. Often the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness is appended to the Sunday service, so that it is also called Forgiveness Sunday.

The gospel for the day is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, and it focuses on the right way to fast. We are to guard our hearts, so that our motivation for fasting is to please God, not to garner the applause of men. We must take all care not to flaunt our fasting before the eyes of the world—or the Church—as if their approval were paramount. For it is not. All that matters is that God sees our efforts and our hearts. We offer our appetites and efforts to Him to win His approval. Our abstinence from foods is the expression of our penitence; it is how we cry out to Him, "Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O merciful Lord!" It is God who will see our secret penitence and give us our reward.

Announcements:

NOTE CHOIR MEMBERS: This year's *Mon Valley Observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy* will be held on **SUNDAY, March 8th at 5 pm.** A rehearsal will be held **Sunday, March 1st directly after Liturgy.**

Father John Parker of St. Nicholas Donora will be rotating Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with us on Wednesdays that are not already scheduled for the Deanery. We would like to do a light meal and reading from the book "Walking With Moses" by Father Lawrence Farley.

Paska! Paska! Paska! Even though Lent will just be starting will be here before you know it! A Paska Order form is an insert in today's bulletin. Orders are due **Sunday, March 22nd.** Please leave your orders at the candlestand. Due to the large demand for Baba's Paska, no orders can be accepted after the due date.

***Don't forget to include valid telephone numbers on the order form
so we can contact you for pick-up!***

Also, come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one of the baking sessions:
Fri., April 3rd and Sat., April 4th
Both sessions will start at 7 am.

Collection: Feb. 16th: \$1,315