



*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 9, 2020**

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

<b>Services</b>	Sat., Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Great Vespers</b> (Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b> Church School Hours Divine Liturgy	<b>9:15 am</b> <b>9:45 am</b> <b>10 am</b>

**Epistle**  
(2 Timothy 3:10-15)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel**  
(Luke 18:10-14)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

‘I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

“And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee*

The period of the Lenten Triodion begins with this story from St. Luke's Gospel as the Church celebrates the first pre-Lenten Sunday. The Lord told this parable targeting those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down their noses at others.

It is the story of two men picked out from among the many who daily crowded the temple courts: one of them a Pharisee and one a hated publican, or tax-collector. All of our Lord's hearers knew (or thought they knew) which one God would favor and which one He would reject. The favored one was the religious one, the Pharisee, and he took his stand, giving thanks to God—for himself and how pious he was! His was not so much a prayer as a self-congratulation, as he exalted himself above those around him, disdainful of them as so many extortioners, unjust, and adulterers. He especially rejoiced that he was not like that tax-collector he saw over there. Doubtless he went on for some time, but the Lord only follows his prayer for a sentence or two. (One imagines God lost interest in his prayer about the same time.)

That tax-collector whom the Pharisee especially despised offered quite a different prayer. In fact, it was not even a prayer: he could not even lift up eyes or hands to heaven (as everyone did while praying). All he could gasp out was the stifled and tearful cry, "God, be merciful to me, the sinful one!" It seems he was a very bad man.

Then came the surprise ending—it was this man, the sinful publican, who left the temple forgiven, and not the Pharisee. Because the publican humbled himself, God accepted him and lifted him up, and because the Pharisee exalted himself over others, God rejected him and brought him down. This is the lesson the Church offers her children as they begin their Lenten striving for righteousness: let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee and learn humility from the publican's tears.

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

*Next Week:* 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

*Gospel Reading:* Luke 15:11-32

## **Announcements:**

The Annual Meeting of HROC is scheduled for **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** and will be held during Coffee Hour in the Social Hall. All officers and members in good standing are invited to attend! This announcement is being published and announced today.

If anyone would like to serve on the Church Board please submit your name to Jonathan Dudzinski. At the meeting a list of Board Members will be read and voted upon as a whole body. Also, if anyone has any matters to be placed on the Annual Meeting Agenda, please inform our Church President.

Minutes will be read and taken, reports will be given and matters concerning the physical operation of our parish will be discussed. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide us in our discussions and deliberation so that all of our efforts will be for our Salvation, the Greater Glory of Almighty God and the extension of His Heavenly Kingdom, the Holy Orthodox Church!

Let us all pray and work together so that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our discussions and deliberation bringing our common work together as a family-in-Christ, for the greater glory of Almighty God and His Holy Orthodox Church! May the Lord bless us for Many Years!

This month's Parish Council meeting is on **February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

The *2020 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

**Paths of Righteousness** is a hiking group launched at St. Michael's in Greensburg under the leadership of Fr. Sam and Pete Papas. The group will embark on wilderness hikes of 5 to 7 miles in length once every 6 weeks on Saturdays or Sundays starting in April to early October. If

interested, please contact Pete Papas at 412/558-1246 or [pnppapas@verizon.net](mailto:pnppapas@verizon.net). See the vestibule bulletin board for more information.

**Collection:** Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$2,022.00