



*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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**March 15, 2020**

<b>Services</b>	Sun., Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Great Mission Vespers</b> New Salem	<b>5 pm</b>
	Wed., Mar. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lenten Matins</b> <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> (Light Meal & reading from "Walking with Moses" by Fr. Farley) St. Nicholas, Donora	<b>7 am</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>
	Fri., Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lenten Matins</b> <b>Passion Akathist</b> (Holy Sacrament of Confession)	<b>7 am</b> <b>7 pm</b>
	Sat., Mar. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Great Vespers</b> (Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Mar. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sunday of the Cross</b> Church School Hours Divine Liturgy <b>Archdiocesan Vespers</b> St. Alexander Nevsky, Allison Park	<b>9:15 am</b> <b>9:45 am</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>5 pm</b>

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.

## Epistle

(Hebrews 7:26-8:2)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who* is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

Now *this* is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

## Gospel

(John 10:9-16)

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

"But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

"The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.

"As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd."

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

*Next Week:* Hebrews 4:14-5:6

*Gospel Reading:* Mark 8:34-9:1

## **Announcements:**

It seems prudent at this time to suggest some precautions associated with the Coronavirus pandemic and flu in general and the reception of Holy Communion.

It is possible to receive Holy Communion in a fashion that minimizes the risks of spreading a virus. When you approach the chalice, open your mouth, tilt your head back slightly and allow Father to deposit the Holy Gifts on your tongue. This method serves to minimize contact of the Spoon with your mouth, lips and tongue. Also, Father requests that we temporarily refrain from kissing the chalice following Communion. Once the threat of the pandemic passes, customary veneration of the chalice could be resumed if the communicant feels comfortable doing so. Also, as Father mentioned last Sunday, if you feel ill or not comfortable receiving communion, please do not come to the chalice. Let Father know and he can bring the gifts to your house.

Finally, there have been questions associated with venerating icons and the Holy Cross. All icons, crosses and liturgical objects are wiped down with disinfecting wipes. To minimize one's exposure, we can venerate these holy objects by making the sign of the cross with a slight bow before them. Disinfecting wipes and tissues have been available throughout the Church. However, first and foremost the simplest precaution is to keep one's hands clean. Reciting the Lord's Prayer while washing your hands with hot soapy water fulfills the 20 second requirement recommended by the CDC.

In the midst of our Lenten journey to Pascha, we are given an opportunity, paradoxically, to honor and serve our neighbor as we struggle with this virus. Reach out during this time to those you know who are not able to get out and prepare for a quarantine. *'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

With daycare, school and work schedules being affected by the Coronavirus outbreak, recently graduated teacher Rebekkah Simkovich is offering her services to Parishioners to be with your homebound children should you need to be at work starting Tues., March 17. Please contact Fr. Stephan who will pass along your request to Rebekkah.

### **Notes from Our Parish Council:**

- Don't forget to return your 2020 Pledge Forms by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Return to God the first fruits of the blessings/gifts he has bestowed upon you. Pledge to support our Parish, our diocese and national church! Also, pledging is not just financial support. Support your Parish through your talents/gifts. See today's insert for a copy of the 2020 Pledge Form.
- At our annual meeting, it was mentioned that we are taking bids on the cost of a new AC unit. So far, we have received two bids in the price range of \$20,000 to \$37,000. We are waiting on more bids to come in. Again, we are trying to plan ahead and find that a capital fund raiser may be needed to cover the cost of a new unit. We are not replacing the current unit now, but if a cost to repair is too high, we will then replace it.

**Attention Choir Members:** There will be **choir rehearsal Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>** after the Akathist Service.

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.

**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.

Fr. Stephan will hear confessions after the scheduled services throughout Lent. If one cannot make it due to health or other noble reasons, Fr. Stephan will be glad to hear your confessions at your house.

**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.

***Paska! Paska! Paska!*** Don't forget to pick up a Paska Order form at the candlestand. Orders are due **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sat., April 4<sup>th</sup>. Both sessions will start at 7 am.**

*Collection:* Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>: \$1,751