



Church website: www.hrocby.org

Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

*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 22, 2020

**Per the Holy Synod, the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and
His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek:
Effective March 17, 2020:**

1. All parishes of this Archdiocese are to *immediately* cease all services, activities, social gatherings, etc. with the exception of 2 items below. This closure will continue until the end of March at which time further directives will be issued by the Chancellor. (*This is a directive of the Bishop, NOT an option for the parishes.*)
 - a. Special services (i.e., funerals, baptisms, etc.) may only be held IF discussed with the Chancellor before scheduled – attendance is limited to immediate family ONLY.
 - b. The Archdiocese has limited the opening of parishes to a few hours on Saturdays ONLY.
Fr. Stephan will have our parish open **March 21 and March 28 from Noon to 3 pm** to offer parishioners time for private prayer and light candles. (High risk individuals such as senior citizens, people with ongoing health problems and people not feeling well currently should not consider this act.)
2. Confession are suspended, except for deathbed confessions.
3. Informal spiritual discussions are permitted via phone and e-mails with Fr. Stephan.
4. Fr. Stephan is available to his faithful in emergency situations, following personal safety protocols. However, he will not be able to visit his homebound during this health emergency period.
5. Please contact Fr. Stephan if any Parishioner is in need of assistance in obtaining the basic staples of life since they cannot visit the grocery stores. He has a group of volunteers ready and able to help!

Please note, much care was used in making these decisions by His Eminence after much prayer, dialogue with members of the Holy Synod, consultation with medical professionals and lengthy conversations with the Chancellor. These decisions were not made lightly! We must eliminate the spread of this virus NOW! His Eminence stated that out of “something bad, perhaps something good can come about” -- this period of limited interaction “opens the window of opportunity” to individually “plunge” into the quiet depths of Holy Lent by increased personal prayer, Bible study, and time with the myriad of “good” Orthodox material available through the Internet and our Orthodox bookstores.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Epistle

(Hebrews 4:14-5:6)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we* are, *yet* without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins.

And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it* was He who said to Him:

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”

As *He* also says in another *place*:

“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;

Gospel
(Mark 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

“Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

*Next Sunday’s scriptures readings:

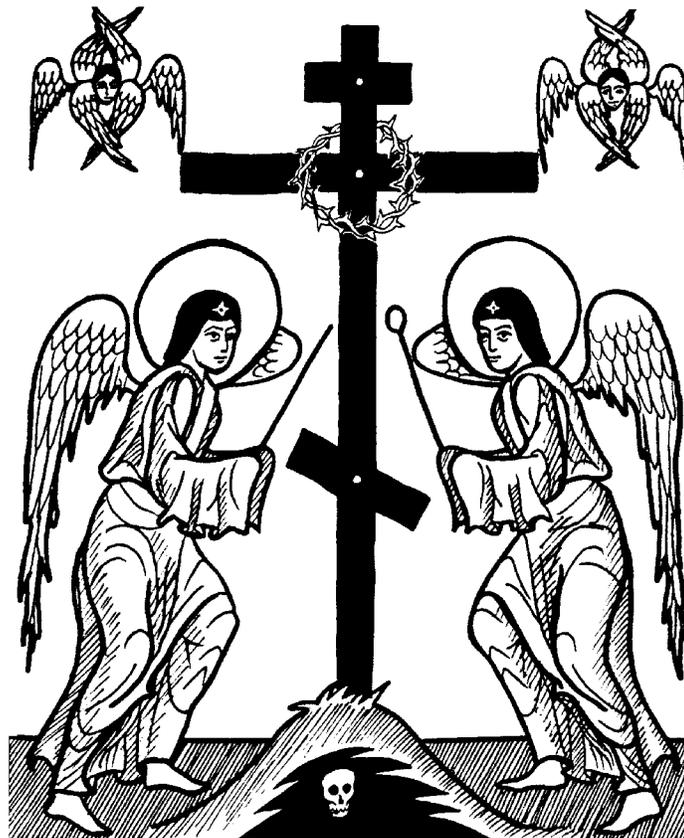
Next Week: Hebrews 6:13-20 *Gospel Reading:* Mark 9:17:31

The Third Sunday of Great Lent:

Veneration of the Precious Cross

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

On this Sunday, midway through Great Lent, the Church brings out the precious Cross, lovingly adorned with flowers, to be offered to the faithful for veneration. As we endure the rigors of the fast, we are in need of renewed strength, of refreshment of spirit. The Cross gives us this strength, this refreshment, for it is through the Cross that joy has come into the world. Through the Cross we are granted victories over our spiritual adversaries. It is the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of holy monks, and the haven of salvation for the world. Through it, the sting of death and the victory of hell are vanquished, and we all enter again into Paradise.



Collection: Mar. 15th: \$1,694