



Church website: www.hrocbv.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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June 28, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Mon., Jun. 29 th	Apostles Peter & Paul Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am
	Sun., Jul. 5 th	Our Holy Father Athanasius of Athos Hours Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am
	Mon., Jul. 6 th	Venerable Sisoës, the Great Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am

This year the 4th of July falls on a Saturday. Since we have been serving three liturgies a week, **we will be cancelling liturgy on the 4th.**

Epistle

(Romans 5:1-10)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel

(Matthew 6:22-33)

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

“But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

“and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

“Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will* He not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

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

Next Week Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

Announcements:

Our sympathies and consolations are extended to the family of **Ann Matty** who fell asleep in the Lord this past Tuesday and was buried from our Church. May her Memory be Eternal!

HELP WANTED, NO EXPERIENCE or SPECIAL TRAINING NECESSARY, HOURS FLEXIBLE! Where could you find a help wanted ad like this? Help is needed in tackling the weeds that have been growing around the church with the recent rains. With the donation of some of your time to fill a plastic grocery bag with weeds you can put a tremendous dent into this project. Please consider stopping by the church whenever you can to lend a hand! It's a great opportunity to get out as well as maintaining social distancing! **Teamwork works wonders!** Thank you in advance. Please bring your own gardening equipment.

1. We will continue evaluating our opportunities as we move into the Green Phase. Stay tuned for updates!
2. A reminder that we still need to use masks in the Church as we come in and go out as well as when we are closer than 6 feet.
3. If you are not well, please contact Father so that he can let others fill the opening.
4. Father is no longer requiring parishioners to schedule for Saturdays or Mondays. We usually have a few openings on those days. Sundays, however, still need to be scheduled.
5. **Paths of Righteousness** will have their first hike **Tuesday, June 30**. The group will be meeting at St. Michael's in Greensburg at 7:30 am.

Update from Fr. Stephan:

Westmoreland and the surrounding counties have recently gone from red to yellow status. Archbishop Melchizedek has given the parishes in the yellow regions permission to increase the number of attendance from 10 to 25 providing that they meet all of the requirements set by the government as well as the OCA.

The parish council met "virtually" this past Tuesday to discuss how we can expand to 25 for services. Fr. Stephan shared this with Fr. Andrew, (our Dean) as well as Fr. Bill, (our Chancellor). They have given us permission to go to 25.

Precautions that are now in place include:

- a) We will ***maintain social distancing***. Every other pew has been taped off. This provides 6'3" between rows. The center aisle is 5' wide so available rows alternate from side to side. For right now we are asking that two people sit in each pew unless they are a family group. This may change as things open up further.
- b) ***Masks are required any time that social distancing is compromised***. Example: when you come to communion Fr. Stephan will wear a mask so that you will be able to receive.
- c) Fr. Stephan will use an ***individual spoon for each communicant***. Every spoon will be cleaned and sanitized by Fr. Stephan.
- d) ***One of the parish council members will act as a greeter*** opening the doors and help to facilitate activities.

- e) There will be ***NO congregating at the candle stand***. The prayer/candle forms will be available in the pews. Fill them out at your seats. Drop in baskets at the candle stand.
- f) The ***doors are required to be locked at the start of service*** so please plan to be early! Signs will be posted on the doors.
- g) ***Fr. Stephan will continue to call to schedule***. If you sign up for a day and are not going to be able to attend, let Fr. Stephan know ASAP so that someone else has the opportunity to attend. Fr. Stephan is required to keep a log of every one who attends.
- h) The Church is cleaned and sanitized after each service. Please be considerate and make our jobs easier. ***If you use a service book please leave it on the pew so that it can be sanitized.***

Translation of the Relics of Ss. Cyrus and John

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

The feast day of the two holy unmercenary physicians Cyrus and John is January 31. They were martyred in 311 in Canopus.

In the early fifth century, Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, was striving against the pagan cults in Egypt, such as the worship of Isis. Led by God, he decided to have the relics of the holy martyrs translated from Canopus to the city of Menuthis, which was a pagan cultic center. He did this in 412, and many turned from worshipping the pagan gods to serve the God of the Christians, so great was His power through His saints. Many found healing through the relics and prayers of Cyrus and John: Ammonius, son of the governor of Alexandria, was healed, as was a certain Theodore, who was healed of his blindness. The Church keeps this feast of the transfer of the saints' relics as a witness to the saving grace of God, which He manifests through His chosen ones.

Ss. Sergius and Herman of Valaam

It seems that Sergius, a Greek monk, went to the northern reaches of Lake Ladoga in the twelfth century to begin a small hermitage there. He converted a local Karelian, Herman, to the Faith. This Herman succeeded Sergius in the leadership of the small monastic community that clustered about him. From these small beginnings the great monastery of Valaam arose. It was a spiritual center for evangelism among the Karelians of Finland and a great light of ascetic holiness in Russia.