



*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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September 13, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Mon., Sept. 14 th	Elevation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy*	9 am
		*Fr. John Parker will be celebrating in Fr. Stephan's absence	
	Sat., Sept. 19 th	Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius & Dorymedon	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Sept. 20 th	Great Martyr Eustathius & his wife Theopistes	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
	Mon., Sept. 21 st	Apostle Quadratus (of 70)	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am

Epistle

(2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth.

Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow.

For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all.

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel (*Matthew 22:1-14*)

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

**“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,
and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.**

“Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.’”

“But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

“And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*.

“But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

‘Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’

“So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

“So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

“Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

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

Next Week -- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:35-46

Announcements:

Baby Jonah is a fighter! He is no longer receiving respiratory or oxygen treatments, but is still being monitored at Children’s Hospital for other health concerns. Due to Covid and travel distance, both Fr. John and Matushka Nadia are staying at Children’s. Matushka’s sister set up a GoFundMe page to help with some of the unexpected medical expenses. As mentioned in today’s bulletin insert, “ANY HELP WILL GO DIRECTLY TO FR. JOHN AND MATUSHKA NADIA.” Thank you and God Bless!

1. We continue evaluating our opportunities as protocols are updated. Stay tuned for updates!
2. A reminder that masks now mandatory in public spaces where the general public is admitted.
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.

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 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.

From Fr. Stephan:

Recently, parishioners, as well as friends, neighbors, and even strangers who recognize me as a clergy express their concerns in regards to the civil/political unrest as well as the corona virus situation.

Now, more than ever, we need to come together as the "Body of Christ" and let the "Light of Christ" shine through us. I am going to ask that everyone in the parish add these special petitions to their daily prayers.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You come to our aid now during the global spread of the Coronavirus and be with the families of those who are sick and who have died. May the sick regain their strength and health, and as they worry and grieve, defend them from further illness and despair. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Give wisdom and strength to our federal government, our state governments, together with the leaders of all nations, and give them foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve. Give them the added wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for and prevent future outbreaks. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You be with the doctors, nurses, researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. We pray that You stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, we pray that You stay with us as we endure and mourn, prepare, and persist. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Petitions at the Augmented Litany in a Time of Civil Unrest

Again we pray for this country and for all its cities, towns, and countrysides that are riven by strife; for all those who are victims of violence, of hatred and injustice, of disorder and unrest, and especially for those who have been killed, that they might find their repose in thee; for all who are beset by anger and fear; for those in civil authority and all who enforce the law; and for all the people of this land: for justice, godly liberty, mercy, a peaceful life, and remission of our sins. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray that all people of this land, its rulers and authorities, its citizens and all who reside here, might be enlightened with the light of thy Gospel and thy commandments, unto peace and good order and love for one another, so that we might easily and safely pass from our temporary homeland here to, our true homeland with thee in heaven. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Update from Fr. Stephan:

Westmoreland and the surrounding counties are currently “green”, however, protocols are updated almost weekly. To continue maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our parishioners, we are keeping our attendance number at 25 at each of the three services in addition to following the below Precautions. As we continue to endure during these difficult and trying times, we must remember *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind.”* (2 Timothy 1:7)

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 isle 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 now mandatory in public spaces where the general public is admitted***. 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***.