



*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 27, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Thurs., Oct. 1	The Veil of Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		<i>Fr. John will be visiting with us</i>	
		Parastas Service for Luke Kluchko who has fallen asleep in the Lord requested by his family and friends	Following Liturgy
	<i>Blessing of the wooden icon of Veil of Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos donated to the parish by Luke Kluchko</i>		
	Sat., Oct. 3 rd	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Oct. 4 th	St. Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
	Mon., Oct. 5 th	Holy Martyr Charitina of Amisus	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am

Epistle

(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain.

For He says:

*“In an acceptable time I have heard You,
And in the day of salvation I have helped
You.”*

Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true;

as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed;

as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

Gospel

(Luke 5:1-11)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,

and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, **“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”**

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, **“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”**

So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36

Announcements:

Notes from Parish Council: Parish Council conducted its first in person meeting on Sept 15th. Below are some important meeting updates:

1. Treasurer's Report:
 - YTD: Total Income = \$59,580.60 - Total Expenses = \$63,294.51 = Difference of -\$3,713.91
 - \$2,961.08 school tax due on September 30th
2. The council approved increasing the permitted capacity from 25 to 40. This is based on the amount of space in the church to be able to maintain the recommended social distancing. The vote for continuing services on Saturday or Monday was almost exactly 50-50. For the time being, we will still have services on both days until further notice.
3. The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 13th at 7 p.m.**

The Orthodox Pen Pal Program is being hosted by Telos POP, an organization working to strengthen Orthodox Communities. They are connecting Orthodox Youth from all over via letter writing. Any Orthodox Christian in Grades 7 - 12 is more than welcome to join. See the vestibule bulletin board for more information.

Can we tempt your taste buds???? When we were getting ready to bake Paska before the chaos of the pandemic, a few church members got together to bake nut rolls using up the last of the nuts from the Christmas baking. We have some nut rolls for sell at \$15 each. They taste great!

We are currently taking donations for the 10 Altar Candles, cost of each candle is \$40. Please note that we typically replace the Altar Candles three times a year. We receive donations for the Easter and Christmas Candles, but not for the mid-year ones.

New Update from Fr. Stephan:

As noted from the September Parish Council meeting, Council has approved increasing the attendance numbers per Liturgy from 25 to 40 while still maintaining recommended social distancing protocol. The vote for continuing services on Saturday or Monday was almost exactly 50/50. For the time being, we will continue to have services on both days until further notice. The below Precautions are still in effect. 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)

- 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 basket at the candle area.
- f) ******new*** Starting this week, Father Stephan will no longer be calling to ask you to schedule for services.*** Being permitted to have 40 per service helps situation greatly. If you are able to come on a Saturday or a Monday from time to time please do! This will open some additional spaces on Sundays making it possible for everyone to start coming on a weekly basis.
- g) 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.***

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.