



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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Ordained Reader

& Choir Master: Peter Merella: (724) 787-2031

January 3, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Services | Wed., Jan. 6 th | Feast of Theophany | |
| | | Hours | 8:45 am |
| | | Divine Liturgy <i>with the Great Blessing of Water</i> | 9 am |
| | Sat., Jan. 9 th | Holy Martyr Polyeuctus | |
| | | Hours | 8:45 am |
| | | Divine Liturgy | 9 am |
| | | Great Vespers | 7 pm |
| | Sun., Jan. 10 th | St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa | |
| | | Hours | 9:45 am |
| | | Divine Liturgy | 10 am |

Epistle

(2 Timothy 4:5-8)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Gospel

(Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the Prophets:

*“Behold, I send My messenger before
Your face,*

Who will prepare Your way before You.

*The voice of one crying in the
wilderness:*

*‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make
His paths straight.’”*

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

“I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

Announcements:

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise wish to thank everyone who expressed holiday greetings through cards, gifts and messages. May God grant you many rich blessings this Christmas and in the year to come!

Matushka Denise has been working on the Livestream issue. We now have an account on Facebook so everything should be working smoother. Below are three ways to watch services:

1. Via Livestreaming on Facebook.
2. Via the “Livestream page” on our website – no Facebook account needed!
3. After the service is over, the video will be uploaded to YouTube and will be available on the Video page on our website.

If anyone is still encountering issues, please let Matushka know.

Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **January 12, 2021 at 7 pm.**

The Annual Parish Meeting has been penciled in for February 14, 2021 – date is subject to change.

The *2021 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

Perohi also available: Sweet Cabbage (\$7.00 a doz.)

From Fr. Stephan:

Recently, parishioners, as well as friends, neighbors, and even strangers who recognize me as a member of the 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 the Diocese and Fr. Stephan 11/19/20:

- 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.
- b) ***** Masks and/or face shields are now a requirement*** while on church property for any gatherings. However, 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) 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.
- e) ***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 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.
- f) 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.***