



Church website: www.hrocbv.org

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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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January 31, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Sun., Jan. 31 st	POSTPONED TO 2/7: Joint River Blessing Monessen River Boat Launch/Park behind By George's Restaurant.	1:00 pm
	Tues., Feb. 2 nd	The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am
	Sat., Feb. 6 th	St. Bucolus of Smyrna; St. Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople Hours Divine Liturgy Great Vespers	8:45 am 9 am 7 pm
	Sun., Feb. 7 th	St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus Hours Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am

Epistle

([Colossians 3:12-16](#))

Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Gospel
(Matthew 25:14-30)

“For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

“And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also.

“But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.

“After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’

“His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

“He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’

“His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

‘And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what* is yours.’

“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

‘So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

‘Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

‘And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

Next Week -- Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Announcements:

HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 2/7: We are planning a *joint* River Blessing after Liturgy at **1 pm** at the boat launch/park in Monessen located behind By George's Restaurant.

Contact Father Stephan if you would like a house blessing. There will be limitations. Father Stephan will have a mask on when he arrives at your house and during the blessing. If one desires to talk and "break bread", social distancing will need to be observed. If one is not comfortable to have their house blessed at this time, they can contact Father Stephan at a later date when they are more comfortable. Father Stephan has copies of a short prayer that anyone can use to bless their house and will make them available at the candle stand.

With the current political unrest, Father Stephan is spending a lot of time in the Church. **We need all of your prayers at this time.**

The next monthly Parish Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 9, 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*.

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.