



Church website: www.hrocby.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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March 21, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Thurs., Mar. 25 th	Feast of the Annunciation	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
	Fri., Mar. 26 th	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Akathist to Theotokos	7 pm
	Sat., Mar. 27 th	Martyr Matrona Salonika	
		Venerable John the Seer	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Mar. 28 th	Venerable Hilarion the New	
		<i>(Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas)</i>	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Epistle

(Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –

of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered *in* deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel *(John 1:43-51)*

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, **“Follow Me.”**

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, **“Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”**

Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, **“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”**

Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered and said to him, **“Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”**

And He said to him, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”**

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Announcements:

We will be adding the prayers for the catechumens to the Liturgy for *Joe Niro*. If anyone else would like to join the Church through the catechumens, please let Father Stephan know of your intentions.

Please Note: An additional baking session has been added! Baking sessions for the *March 23rd* orders will take place on **Thursday, March 25th, Friday, March 26 & Saturday, March 27** -- **All sessions will start at 7 am.** Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one and/or both baking sessions.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! The annual **“Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal 11 Week Calendar”** is available for home reference to keep you abreast of all Lenten services during this holy season. Pick yours up **TODAY** at the candlestand. Due to covid concerns, there will be no rotating of services among other Deanery parishes this year. All listed services will be at HROC. To help make it easier for those who clean the Church between Lenten services, Fr. Stephan is going to ask that each of us clean our areas with disinfectant at the completion of the service.

Fr. Stephan will hear confessions after **all** scheduled services throughout Lent. If one cannot make it due to health or other noble reasons, Fr. Stephan will be glad to hear your confessions at your house.

We are now in the Lenten Season! Some people are not able to attend many of the scheduled services due to their work schedules. Fr. Stephan is pleased to say that he has received multiple requests asking if it would be OK to come to the Church at other times to pray. The answer is YES! Just give Father a call to let him know when you would like to come to pray and he will make arrangements to have the Church open for you. We will be requiring you to disinfect your area prior to leaving the Church.

Also, we will be doing a Liturgy on **Saturday, April 3rd** for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Please submit names of whom you would like to be remembered to Fr. Stephan. Father will commemorate them during the preparation for the Liturgy (Proskomedia) and during Liturgy with additional commemoration petitions.

Fr. Stephan will be cleaning pussy willows that we received on **Tuesday, March 23rd at 10:00 am**. If you have additional pussy willows or if you would like to help, you are more than welcome to join Father.

Perohi also available: Potato & Cheese and Hot Pepper Cheese (\$7.50/doz.) along with Sweet Cabbage (\$7.00/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.