



*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

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Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

March 28, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Wed., Mar. 31 st	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Fri., Apr. 2 nd	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Akathist to Theotokos	7 pm
		Healer of Hardened Hearts	
	Sat., Apr. 3 rd	Soul Saturday	
		St. Nicetas the Confessor	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Apr. 4 th	Holy Father Joseph the Hymnographer	
		<i>(Sunday of the Cross)</i>	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Epistle

(Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

And:

*“You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
They will perish, but You remain;
And they will all grow old like a garment;
Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail.”*

But to which of the angels has He ever said:

*“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?*

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

Gospel

([Mark 2:1-12](#))

And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*.

And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”**

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

“Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, **“Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?”**

“Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?”

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic,

“I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw *anything* like this!”

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1

Announcements:

Father Stephan and Matushka Denise thank everyone for their prayers. They both have received their second vaccine and are doing well.

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.

With Palm Sunday as well as Pascha right around the corner, one of the questions that is often asked is “What should we do with the old palms and pussy willows?” If they are still being used, use them. If they need to be replaced, then the old ones should be burned and the ashes should be returned to the earth. If you don’t have a good place to burn them Father Stephan does Liturgical Burns on a regular basis.

Don’t Forget to Pick up Your Copy Today! 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.

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.