



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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April 11, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Wed., Apr. 14 th	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Fri., Apr. 16 th	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Akathist to St. Mary of Egypt	7 pm
	Sat., Apr. 17 th	Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Persia	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers	7 pm
	Sun., Apr. 18 th	Holy New Martyr John of Epirus	
		Venerable Father John the Isaurian	
		<i>(St. Mary of Egypt)</i>	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Epistle (Resurrection)

(Hebrews 6:13-20)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

saying, *“Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”*

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute.

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath,

that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,

where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel (Resurrection)

[\(Mark 9:17-31\)](#)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

“And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

He answered him and said, **“O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”**

Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So He asked his father, **“How long has this been happening to him?”** And he said, “From childhood.

“And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”**

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: **“Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”**

Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So He said to them, **“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”**

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*.

For He taught His disciples and said to them, **“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”**

Gospel (St. John Climacus)

[\(Matthew 4:25-5:12\)](#)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

“Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

“Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Announcements:

We have been adding the prayers for catechumens to the Liturgy for *Joe Niro* of HROC and *Nathaniel* of St. Ellien’s Orthodox Church (Brownsville), he will be received into the Orthodox at St. George’s Orthodox Church in Altoona. If anyone else would like to join the Church through the catechumenate, please let Father Stephan know of your intentions.

We are making 2021 Pascha special for our youngest parishioners during covid – Can you help with a donation of some candy or candy-filled eggs? A few of us are getting together to make up some Pascha treat bags for our children filled with candy and goodies. To aid in assembling the Paschal bags, please fill your plastic eggs before bringing to church. Thanks to everyone for their generosity and help! God Bless!

A Cornucopia of Food! We have received plenty of food and literally have a storehouse in the basement of the Church. If you or someone you know could benefit from the storehouse, please take and use what we have.

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 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.

The Lenten Season is in full swing! Some people are not able to attend many of the scheduled services due to their work schedules or health concerns. 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.

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 turn in your Paska order TODAY! You can still order your Paska for Pascha by either giving Marie a call at (724) 309-7420 OR Carol Lofink at (724) 326-8517.

Don’t forget to leave a valid telephone number(s) so we can arrange pick-up!

Baking sessions are scheduled for **Friday, April 16th & Saturday, April 17th starting at 7 am.** Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one and/or both baking sessions. New helpers are always welcome to learn to bake the Paska bread. Help keep the tradition alive!

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.***