



*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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April 18, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Wed., Apr. 21 st	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Fri., Apr. 23 rd	Lenten Matins	7 am
		Passion Akathist (Lent Ends)	7 pm
	Sat., Apr. 24 th	Lazarus Saturday	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers w/ Litya and Confession	7 pm
	Sun., Apr. 25 th	Palm Sunday	
		Hours and Palm Blessing/Procession	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Confessions can be heard, please contact Fr. Stephan

Epistle (Resurrection)

(Hebrews 9:11-14)

But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel (Resurrection)

(Mark 10:32-45)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;

“and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

And He said to them, **“What do you want Me to do for you?”**

They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, **“You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”**

They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, **“You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;**

“but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared.”

And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, **“You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.**

“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

“And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18

Announcements:

The Diocesan Council met this past Monday. Archbishop Melchizedek, like the rest of us, is anxious for everything to get back to normal. He has asked that we try to make Pascha as normal as possible as long as we still meet all of the recommendations.

The Parish Council met this past Tuesday and discussed how we can make Pascha as normal as possible given our current situation. Below are their recommendations:

- We will not be limiting the number of people who want to attend the Paschal services.
- The mask requirements will not change.
- Some choir members will be able to be in the choir area to accommodate the attendance of additional parishioners on Pascha.
- The blessings of Paschal baskets will be done after services on both Holy Saturday and Pascha. This will be done the same as we did last year with baskets in the trunks.

Catechumen ***Joe Niro*** will be brought into the Church through chrismation on **Saturday, April 24** during Liturgy.

The blessing of Palms will take place on both **Saturday, April 24th and Palm Sunday**. Father Stephan has some pussy willows that are rooted if anyone would like to try raising them.

Father Stephan will be asking for help for the Vesperal Divine Liturgy scheduled for May 1st. There are multiple Old Testament readings and this is also the service when the colors are changed from dark to light. Any able help is welcome.

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.

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

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!

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.

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.***

HOLDING AREA:

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.