



Church website: www.hrocby.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 25, 2021

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Services	Wed., Apr. 28 th	Holy Wednesday Bridegroom Matins	7 pm
	Thurs., Apr. 29 th	Holy Thursday Vesperal Divine Liturgy (<i>Last Supper</i>) Matins/Passion Gospels	9 am 7 pm
	Fri., Apr. 30 th	Holy Friday Royal Hours Vespers of Entombment Matins/Procession	9 am 1 pm 7 pm
	Sat., May 1 st	Holy Saturday Vesperal Divine Liturgy (<i>Fr. John Parker co-celebrating</i>) (<i>Blessing of Baskets</i>)	9 am
	Sun., May 2 nd	PASCHA Nocturne/Procession Paschal Matins Paschal Divine Liturgy Blessing of Baskets / Paschal Basket Distribution for our Sunday Schoolers	6 am

Epistle (Resurrection) (*Philippians 4:4-9*)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel (Resurrection)

(John 12:1-18)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

But Jesus said, "**Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.**

"For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,

because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

"Hosanna!

*'Blessed is He who comes in the name of
the LORD!'*

The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

*"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt."*

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and *that* they had done these things to Him.

Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

Announcements:

Catechumen **Joe Niro** was brought into the Church through chrismation during yesterday's Liturgy. God's Blessings and Congratulations to Joe and his family on this blessed day!

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

Fr. Stephan's Aunt Marge passed away this week and the Gresh's will be attending the funeral Monday, April 26th. Father John Parker will be available while Fr. Stephan is out of town. Fr. John's number is: (719) 332-3925. The Gresh's should be back that evening.

A special request! During the May 1st Vespertal Divine Liturgy there are many readings. Anyone who would like to have an opportunity to read would be a blessing to me as well as the rest of the parish. Some of the readings are very short. Let Father Stephan or Matushka Denise know if you have interest.

Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to those who are not able to attend the services this week.

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.

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 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!

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**.