



*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

**April 4, 2021**

*Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!*

<b>Services</b>	Wed., Apr. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lenten Matins</b>	<b>7 am</b>
		<b>Presanctified Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Fri., Apr. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lenten Matins</b>	<b>7 am</b>
		<b>Akathist to All Mighty God for Help in Trouble</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sat., Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Martyrs Terence, Africanus, Maximus, Pompeius, and Companions</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
		<b>Great Vespers</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Apr. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum (St. John Climacus)</b>	
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>

**Epistle**

*(Hebrews 4:14-5:6)*

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins.

And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He* who said to Him:

*“You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.”*

As *He* also says in another *place*:

*“You are a priest forever  
According to the order of  
Melchizedek”;*

## **Gospel**

**[\(Mark 8:34-9:1\)](#)**

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, **“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

**“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.**

**“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**

**“Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”**

And He said to them, **“Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”**

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

***Next Week -- Epistle:*** Hebrews 6:13-20

***Gospel Reading:*** Mark 9:17-31

## Announcements:

This month's Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

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

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!** The *first* session is already completed! A special thanks for everyone who helped with the baking of Paskas for the Western Easter Celebration. There were plenty of challenges but it was beautiful to see some new faces step up to help.

**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. 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.

***Just in Case You Forgot to Order Your Paska – Don't worry!*** 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 ***by next Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.***

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

Baking sessions are scheduled for **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 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.*