



Church website: [www.hrocbv.org](http://www.hrocbv.org)

Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

*Holy Resurrection  
Orthodox Church*

222 Mary Street, Rostraver Township, PA  
(Serving the faithful of Belle Vernon and surrounding areas)

Reverend Father Stephan Gresh

Cell Phone: (937) 869-8037

Rectory Phone: (724) 929-9194

Email: [stephangresh@gmail.com](mailto:stephangresh@gmail.com)

Ordained Reader

& Choir Master: Peter Merella: (724) 787-2031

**May 16, 2021**

**Sunday of the  
Myrrh-Bearing Women**

*Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Has Risen!*

<b>Services</b>	Sat., May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Holy Father Pachomius the Great</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
		Great Vespers with Confession	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b>	
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>
		Memorial at Cross & Grave Blessings at:	
		Grandview Cemetery, Monessen	<b>1 pm</b>
		Mon Valley Memorial Park	<b>1:30 pm</b>
		Monongahela Cemetery	<b>2 pm</b>
		West Newton Cemetery	<b>3 pm</b>
		<i>(Weather Permitting ~~ Please note: <b>The above times are <u>only</u> approximations</b>)</i>	

## **Epistle (*Resurrection*)**

(Acts 6:1-7)

Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## **Gospel (*Resurrection*)**

([Mark 15:43-16:8](#))

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.

So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

“But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

*Next Week -- Epistle:* Acts 9:32-42

*Gospel Reading:* John 5:1-15

## **Announcements:**

**Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to everyone!**

### **The Third Sunday of Pascha: St. Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

St. Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus and a member of the Sanhedrin, the council that ruled Jerusalem and Jewish affairs. He kept his loyalty to Jesus secret in the early days, since such loyalty was fiercely persecuted in Judea. After Christ's death, Joseph gathered up his courage and went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus to give it honorable burial. This was a courageous act, sure to invite persecution from his fellow Jews. Joseph nonetheless carried out the burial, wrapping Christ's body in a clean linen shroud and placing it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock in a garden near Golgotha.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, with other women, saw where Jesus was buried, and they determined to anoint His body as a final act of love and devotion. They had some spices prepared but needed to buy more. Since the weekly Sabbath began immediately after Jesus' burial, they rested on the Sabbath, and after the Sabbath, bought more spices. Early on Sunday, the first day of the week, they met at the tomb, determined somehow to have the stone guarding the door of the tomb moved.

When they arrived, they saw that the stone had already been moved and that the body of Jesus was not there. They saw a vision of angels in white who told them that Christ was not there but had risen. The angels told the women to tell this news to the apostles, assuring them that all should meet the risen Christ in Galilee. The women fled awestruck from the tomb. They told the disciples of their vision, though the apostles did not believe their word alone. The myrrh-bearing women remain in the Church as images of faithful love and courage, enlightened and rewarded by the joy of the Resurrection.

## **Path to a New Normal:**

In March, Archbishop Melchizedek gave parishes the opportunity to reopen as each parish is able to with regards to the health of the parish while still adhering to State and local restrictions.

We have had a lot of good discussions at the last two parish council meetings regarding how we should start the process of reopening to a new normal and have already started the process.

Below are some initial steps that have been implemented:

- a. Starting with Palm Sunday, council gave permission to increase the number of parishioners from 40 and asked that masks continue to be worn.  
*We had over 60 parishioners in attendance for Palm Sunday and nearly 70 for Pascha.*
- b. Altar servers were permitted to start serving again to assist Father during the Paschal Service.
- c. The choir was given permission to sing again as a group providing they still use their masks.

I have not received any complaints based on the changes that have already been implemented. Additional changes are still being discussed by council and Father Stephan will be asking for feedback from parishioners after the upcoming Liturgies.

## **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.