



Church website: 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

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May 9, 2021

Sunday of St. Thomas

Happy Mother's Day

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Has Risen!

Services	Sat., May 15 th	Holy Father Pachomius the Great	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers with Confession	7 pm
	Sun., May 16 th	Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
		Memorial at Cross & Grave Blessings at Belle Vernon Cemetery (Weather Permitting)	

Epistle (*Resurrection*)

(Acts 5:12-20)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

“Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

Gospel (*Resurrection*)

([John 20:19-31](#))

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “**Peace *be* with you.**”

When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”

And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**

“**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.**”

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “**Peace to you!**”

Then He said to Thomas, “**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**”

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “**Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.**”

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-16:8

Announcements:

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise wish to thank everyone who expressed Paschal greetings through cards, gifts and messages. May God grant you many rich blessings! Christ is Risen!

Thanks to everyone who generously donated candy and goodies for the Sunday Schoolers’ Paschal Gift Bags! They were very much appreciated by our kids!

PASCHAL ALTAR CANDLES: The following Altar Candles were presented by the following:

In Memory of John and Libby Rosak and Deceased Members of the Joseph Family by Toni Costella

This month’s council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 11th at 7 pm.**

Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to everyone!

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

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***.

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.