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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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June 6, 2021

Sunday of the Blindman

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Services	Wed., Jun. 9 th	Leave-taking of Pascha	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		<i>St. Nicholas, Donora</i>	
		Great Vespers with Litya	7 pm
	Thurs., Jun. 10 th	Ascension of our Lord	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
	Sat., Jun. 12 th	Holy Father Onuphrius the Great	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		Great Vespers with Confession	7 pm
	Sun., Jun. 13 th	Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council	
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Epistle (*Resurrection*)

(Acts 16:16-34)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

"and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods.

And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel (*Resurrection*)

(John 9:1-38)

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work.

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?”

Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am *he*.”

Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

“but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.”

His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He *was* Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”

He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”

Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?”

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.

We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "**Do you believe in the Son of God?**"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "**You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.**"

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

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

Next Week -- Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13

Announcements:

Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to everyone!

This month's council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 8th at 7 pm.**

An update from Fr. Stephan: He plans to cut back to just Sunday Liturgies starting the week of June 27, 2021.

Class of 2021:

Zoey Martin, Belle Vernon Area

Austin Pierce, California Area

Kaelyn Shaporka, Frazier High School

Kendall Shaporka, Frazier High School

Cassandra Mica, Seton Hill College (Bachelor of Science in Biology)

Victoria Cooper, Slippery Rock University (Bachelor of Science in Public Health, with a minor in Gerontology)

There will be a special coffee hour honoring our graduates on **Sunday, June 13th**. Please stop by to grab a piece of cake, a cup of coffee and wish them well.

Jacob Bazzar's First Holy Confession will be heard on **Saturday, June 12th at 7:00 pm.** His family is reminded to prepare for Holy Confession as well. Jacob will be recognized by the Parish the following day, **Sunday, June 13th** at Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Stephan will be away for almost three weeks, leaving after Liturgy on June 20th and returning home approximately Saturday, July 10th. Father Stephan and Rebekkah Simkovich will be travelling to Seattle, Washington for a long overdue visit with his daughter Mary, son-in-law Sandy, and son Jacob (and to see their new home). During Father's absence, Father Sam will be covering pastoral needs and can be reached at (724) 516-9390. Matushka Denise will be home holding down the fort. Prayers for safe travels are appreciated.

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.

Continuing on the Path to a New Normal: [Additional Updates to Come]

- a. Parish Council agreed to remove the tape from one side of the pews. The other side will have the tape up so that people will have the option to maintain social distancing.
- b. Parish Council also agreed that coffee hour should be able to restart again on Sunday, May 30.
- c. The Synod is meeting this week and we should receive additional directions for getting back to normal.

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.