



Church website: www.hrocby.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 22, 2022
Sunday of
the Samaritan Woman,
St. Photini**

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Services	Sat., May 28 th	Great Vespers with Confession	7 pm
	Sun., May 29 th	Sunday of the Blindman	
		Church School	9:15 am
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
		Grave Blessings at:	
		West Newton Cemetery	1 pm
		Monongahela Cemetery	1:45 pm
		Sacred Heart, Monongahela	3 pm
		Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora	3:30 pm
		Grandview Cemetery, Monessen	4 pm

*(Weather Permitting ~~ Please note: **The above times are only approximations**)* Refreshments for everyone following grave blessings at the Gresh's "Stone House", 1552 Leeds Ave. (across the street from Grandview Cemetery).

Epistle (*Resurrection*)

(Acts 11:19-26, 29-30)

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.

And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel (*Resurrection*)

(John 4:5-42)

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **"Give Me a drink."**

For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."**

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

"Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, **"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,**

"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, and come here."**

The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, **"You have well said, 'I have no husband,'**

"for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, **"Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father."**

"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews."

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am He."**

And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

But He said to them, **"I have food to eat of which you do not know."**

Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?"

Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."**

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

"And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."

"For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'"

"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I *ever* did."

So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

And many more believed because of His own word.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

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

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38

Announcements:

Congratulations and God's Blessings – Upon the Handmaiden of God, ***Jocelyn Marie***, and the Servant of God, ***Christopher Michael Nelson***, united in Holy Matrimony yesterday in our Church. May they know the love and support of their family and friends as they continue to body forth his blessing in all things to the Glory of God and their salvation. God grant them Many Blessed Years!

Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to everyone!

Contingent on the weather – The blessing of the graves will continue **TODAY** after coffee hour. Below is a schedule of other cemeteries with *approximate times*:

West Newton Cemetery	1 pm
Monongahela Cemetery	1:45 pm
Sacred Heart, Monongahela	3 pm
Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora	3:30 pm
Grandview Cemetery, Monessen	4 pm

The Greshs plan to have refreshments for those who are able to attend at the "Stone House" in Monessen (1552 Leeds Ave.) immediately after the grave blessings (*weather permitting*).

Please contact Fr. Stephan to make arrangements to bless the graves of loved ones at other cemeteries.

A Note from Parish Council There will a ***SPECIAL*** Parish Meeting on June 5, 2022 at Coffee Hour.

Reminder: Please have the courtesy to inform others if you have potentially exposed them to Covid. It is still imperative that we remain vigilant to keep safe and healthy.

2022 Sacraments of First Confession and Holy Communion ~~ ***Emilia Lofink, Danika Shaporka, and Lia Zimmerman*** will be making their First Confession to Father Stephan then taking the sacrament of Holy Communion on **Sunday, May 29th**. Please keep Emilia, Danika and Lia in your prayers as they take their sacraments.

Last day of Church School is Sunday, May 29th – see you in September!

The 2022 Graduation season is upon us. Please submit names of graduates to either Fr. Stephan or Mary Merella so the Parish can congratulate our graduates and wish them God's Blessings on their next venture!

A special thank you to those who started the weeding/mulching activity around the church.

Flea Market: Jack Lofink is planning on having a flea market this summer. Tentative dates re Friday, July 15th and Saturday, July 16th. More details to come! Stay tuned!

Please keep in your **PRAYERS** three of our diocesan priests who have been dealing with health issues during the past several months - Fr. Andrew Matychak, Igumen David Lewis, and Igumen Patrick Carpenter.

The Fifth Sunday of Pascha: St. Photini, the Samaritan Woman

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

Photini (or “enlightened”) is the name given to the Samaritan woman whom Christ met at the well. She had a colorful history: she had had five husbands, and at the time she met Christ was living with another man who was not her husband. She was something of an outcast, which is probably why she had come to draw water at the sixth hour, the hottest time of the day. The other village women would have come at a cooler and earlier hour, and at noon she could be assured of being left alone.

As she was drawing water from the well, Christ asked her for a drink. Startled that a Jewish man was asking to drink from her water pot (for Jews had no such dealings with Samaritans, much less with Samaritan women), she began to speak with Him, Christ brought her to faith, speaking with divine prophetic knowledge of her past and of the things of God. She ran in haste to tell the others in her village of this man, who claimed to be the Messiah. Christ stayed with the villagers two days, convincing them that He was indeed the Messiah all were expecting.

Photini was evidently a woman of determination and spirit. It is said that she converted her four sisters and two sons to Christ and died a martyr. Her example reveals that we also, through baptism and faith, can find the spring of water welling up to eternal life. We also can drink abundantly of the water of wisdom and be ever glorified.



