



Church website: www.hrocbv.org

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*Holy Resurrection
Orthodox Church*

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

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February 19, 2023

**Meatfare Sunday
Last Judgment**

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services	Sat., Feb. 25 th	Great Vespers with Confession	6 pm
	Sun., Feb. 26 th	Saint Porphyrius of Gaza; Photine Samaritan Woman; Venerable Sebastian <i>Last Pre-Lenten Sunday: Sunday of the Expulsion of Adam from Paradise (Cheesefare Sunday)</i>	9:15 am 9:45 am 10 am
		Church School Hours Divine Liturgy	

Epistle

(1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel

(Matthew 25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

“And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

‘for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

‘I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

‘When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

‘Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

‘for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

‘I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’

“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21

Sunday of the Last Judgment By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

This day is sometimes called Meatfare Sunday, since it is the last day meat is allowed before the great fast. The gospel for the day, from St. Matthew, focuses on the Last Judgment. In a parable, Christ tells of the day when He will return as King in glory to gather all the nations for judgment, dividing them into two groups, even as a shepherd would separate the sheep from the goats after they had intermingled. Both groups would be stunned by what they heard.

Those on the right hand of honor were commended for their deeds. They had fed Jesus when He was starving, given Him drink when He was dying of thirst. They came to see Him when He languished in prison and visited Him on His sickbed. They would have their just reward—the blessing of the Father as they inherited His Kingdom. But those rewarded spoke up in perplexity—when was Jesus ever starving? Or when did He languish in prison, or moan on a sickbed? Then came the stunning answer: each time they did these things to the poor, who were His humblest brothers, they did it to Him.

Those on the left hand had not heard this exchange, and the triumphant King turned on them in wrath. Let them get out of His face, fleeing like accursed men into hell, for when He was starving, they merely looked on; when He was languishing in prison, they didn't even visit Him, but let Him rot. These were as shocked as the first group and protested that they had done no such thing. The stunning answer came to them as well: each time they refused to help the poor, they affronted Jesus their King also.

The lesson for all is clear: eternal issues are involved in our earthly deeds. Let us walk in love and be abundant in almsgiving and good works, for by doing so we serve our King and save our souls.

Announcements:

Soup's On! Stop down to **TODAY's** Coffee Hour to have a bowl of delicious homemade soup, something sweet and a hot cup of coffee/tea. All proceeds from Coffee Hour are earmarked for an outing this summer for our Church School kids.

Paska! Paska! Paska! Nothing could replace this precious tradition to celebrate the joyous Resurrection! The men and women of HROC will be rolling up their sleeves on **Thursday, March 30th Friday, March, 31st and Saturday April 1st** to assure that past and new customers will have this wonderful delicacy to enjoy for their Easter. As an insert in today's bulletin you will find Baba's Paska Order Form.

Most importantly,

***Don't forget to include a valid telephone number
on the order form so we can arrange for you to pick-up!***

The orders are due **Sunday, March 19th**. Please leave your orders at the candle stand or see either Marie or Mary S. Due to the large demand for Baba's Paska, no orders can be accepted after the due date.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! The annual "**Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal 10 Week Calendar**" is available for home reference to keep you abreast of all Lenten services during this holy season. Pick yours up **TODAY** at the candlestand.

House Blessings: House Blessings are winding down. Please contact Fr. Stephan to set up your house blessing today!

Follow-up from the Annual Parish Meeting: The parish council had a discussion about the candles. This is a delicate topic because we often light candles to remind us to pray for others. This is a wonderful thing and we do not want to deter anyone from praying. However, there are some serious safety issues and financial issues that need to be addressed.

- We will no longer permit lit candles on the floor due to the potential FIRE HAZARDS according to our recent fire audit.
- There are currently a total of 76 large candle holders in the Church. The candles in them will be lit on a first come basis.
- At the Annual Parish Meeting it was reported that we are spending more on candles than what we are bringing in.
- ***As of March 1st, the donation on the large candles will be \$5.00 per candle. The donation on the beeswax tapers and small votive candles will be \$2.00 per candle.***
- The beeswax candles are purchased from the monastery so the donations will go right back into the Church.

An update on the Electrical/Lighting project.

The Electricians have installed new lighting in the Kitchen, the entrance to the Church, behind the Altar, as well as the children's room. They also installed all new compatible switches in the panel behind the Altar. There are still a few smaller items that need to be finished but the bulk of the work has been completed. We will be adjusting/testing the lights the next couple weeks. Please feedback any concerns.

A Note from Council ~~ Don't forget: If you have any changes/updates to your phone/cell number, e-mail address or home address, please let us know. Please drop off any new information at the candlestand or give to Mary Merella to help us keep the information on our contact lists up-to-date. Thanks!

Interested in learning how to make Prospora? If interested, please let either Marie or Mary know. A demonstration/class is on the horizon.

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.