



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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Ordained Reader

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

December 22, 2024

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services	Tues., Dec. 24 th	Pre-Feast of the Nativity of Christ Holy Supper (in Parish Social Hall)	5 pm
		Vigil of the Holy Nativity (Compline and Matins)	7 pm
	Wed. Dec. 25 th	Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Carols Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am
	Sat., Dec. 28 th	Great Vespers and Confession	6 pm
	Sun., Dec. 29 th	14,000 Holy Innocents; Venerable Marcellus Church School (<i>Christmas Break until 1/5/25</i>) Hours Divine Liturgy	9:45 am 10 am

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

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

<p>Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)</p> <p>When the <u>stone</u> had been sealed by the <u>Jews</u>, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure <u>body</u>, Thou didst <u>rise</u> on the third day, O <u>Savior</u>, granting <u>life</u> to the world. The <u>powers</u> of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O <u>Giver</u> of Life: “Glory to Thy <u>Resurrection</u>, O Christ! <u>Glory</u> to Thy <u>Kingdom</u>! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who <u>lovest</u> mankind!”</p> <p>Tone 2 Troparion (Holy Fathers)</p> <p><u>Great</u> are the <u>accomplishments</u> of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the <u>waters</u> of rest; and the</p>	<p>Tone 1 Kontakion (Holy Fathers)</p> <p>Re<u>joice</u>, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O <u>Ephratha</u>! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she <u>carries</u> in her womb. The <u>God</u>-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, <u>beholding</u> Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin <u>nursing</u> Him.</p>	<p>Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Holy Fathers)</p> <p>Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (<i>Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3</i>)</p> <p><i>V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)</i></p>
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Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!		
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Epistle

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

of whom it was said, "*In Isaac your seed shall be called,*"

concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets:

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –

of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel

(Matthew 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah.

Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Announcements:

*"As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ. Alleluia."*

Congratulations to the newly baptized handmaiden of God, **Hensley Deborah Fisher**, her parents, Godparents and Grandparents. May God grant them many blessed years!

During the Nativity Fast, please try to do the best you can without hurting or being judgmental of others. Remember abstaining from different foods is only a small part of the Advent Season. We all

have opportunities to work on our prayer lives, love our neighbors, forgive others, and ask for forgiveness of our own shortcomings.

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

In Loving Memory of:

Rudy Gerber, Sam and Anna Marie Laciak by Tim & Karen Laciak

**Please consider coming ‘sooner than later’
for your Advent Confession
to avoid long lines before Christmas.**

The 2025 Weekly Offering Envelopes are in. Please stop by the candlestand to pick up your set. If you need a set, please see Toni Costella.

2025 Church Calendars are in. Pick up yours today!

All parishioners are reminded to promptly submit their Home Blessings Envelopes. If you think you might have discarded yours, just fill out an envelope at the Candle Desk with your name, address and phone number and turn it into Father.

Don't forget, we need to remember and visit our Home-Bound Parishioners especially over the holiday season! See today's bulletin insert for an **UPDATED** listing of our Home-Bound Parishioners. All of these folks are very appreciative that their parish has not forgotten them and enthusiastically send their love to all here at HROC. *If you know of a person who needs to be added to it, please let Father Stephan know.*

Christmas Altar Candles: Gifts are now being accepted for the Christmas Altar Candles. If you would like to make a gift in memory of loved ones or in honor of loved ones – place your offering in an envelope marking it “Christmas Candles” and leave it at the Candle Stand.

Save the Date:

Make this tradition from years gone by a new family tradition! The Nativity Eve Veliya (Holy Supper). All are invited to participate in our Parish Holy Supper Covered Dish on Christmas Eve at the Social Hall beginning **promptly at 5 pm**. Reader Peter will coordinate the preparation of all dishes. ***Please remember all food items must be prepared with no meat, dairy (no eggs or butter).*** (Some of the items traditionally served are: Garlic & Honey, Fish, Sauerkraut Soup, Fruit Compote, Bobalki, Prune Perohi; Keselicha (Fermented Oatmeal), Mashed Potatoes.) Please contact Peter face-to-face or over the phone at 724-787-2031 to confirm your menu assignment. This meal helps us to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Learn centuries old customs of this holy night to re-establish the practice of this traditional meal in your family. Take a few minutes to ask parents, grandparents or great grandparents about traditions that they did on Christmas Eve. Bring a friend and see you there!!