



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)

Very Reverend Fr. Stephan Gresh

Cell Phone: (937) 869-8037

Rectory Phone: (724) 929-9194

Email: stephangresh@gmail.com

Ordained Reader

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

January 5, 2025

Christ Is In Our Midst!

Services	Mon. Jan. 6 th	Feast of Theophany	
		Hours	8:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	9 am
		<i>with the Great Blessing of Water</i>	
	Sat., Jan. 11 th	Great Vespers and Confession	6 pm
	Sun., Jan. 12 th	Martyr Tatiana; Martyr Mertius; Venerable Martinian	
		Church School	9:15 am
		Hours	9:45 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am
		River Blessing	2 pm
		<i>Holy Resurrection, West Brownsville (weather permitting)</i>	

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

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

<p>Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)</p> <p>Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown <u>strength</u> with His arm. He has trampled down <u>death</u> by death. He has become the <u>first</u> born of the dead. He has delivered us from the <u>depths</u> of hell, and has <u>granted</u> to the world <u>great mercy</u>.</p> <p>Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)</p> <p>The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of <u>Elisha</u>, after Elijah had been taken up to <u>heaven</u>. The waters were <u>parted</u> in two, and the stream became a <u>dry</u> path. This was truly a type of <u>baptism</u>, by which we pass over the <u>stream</u> of life. Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the <u>waters</u>.</p>	<p>Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)</p> <p>On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O <u>Merciful</u> One, leading us from the <u>gates</u> of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve <u>rejoices</u>; with the Prophets and <u>Patriarchs</u> they unceasingly praise the divine <u>majesty</u> of Thy <u>power</u>.</p> <p>Tone 2 1st Kontakion (Forefeast)</p> <p>O <u>Christ</u>, in Thy compassion and infinite <u>mercy</u>, Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the <u>Jordan</u>, in <u>order</u> to take away the many <u>transgressions</u> of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient <u>glory</u> of which I was <u>cruelly stripped</u> bare.</p>	<p>Tone 4 2nd Kontakion (Forefeast)</p> <p>Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries <u>out</u> to John: “Do not be afraid to <u>baptize</u> Me. For I have come to save Adam, the <u>first</u>-formed man.”</p> <p>Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)</p> <p>O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)</p> <p>V. <i>To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!</i> (Ps. 27:1a)</p>
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Epistle

(1 Corinthians 9:19-27)

For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Epistle

(1 Corinthians 10:1-4)
(Great Blessing of Waters)

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

all ate the same spiritual food,

and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Gospel

(Luke 3:1-18)

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?”

He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”

Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not,

John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

“His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

Gospel

(Mark 1:9-11)

(Great Blessing of Waters)

It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Announcements:

2025 River Blessing: The River Blessing will take place on **Sunday, January 12th in West Brownsville at 2 pm**, *weather permitting*. Everyone will gather and warm up at Holy Resurrection, West Brownsville then proceed to the river near the Route 40 bridge. Before and after the River Blessing, hot coffee/tea and refreshments will be served.

This month’s Parish Council meeting is **Monday, January 13th at 6:30 pm**.

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!

House Blessings: It will soon be that time of the year again for the house blessings. Father Stephan will be working on a schedule. **Please let him know if there are any changes to your address and/or phone number.** He will contact you before he arrives. Don’t worry about your mess, Father Stephan has had a lot of life experience with a house full of people and stuff. Traditionally one would want to have at least one clean spot with a clean white cloth that has a bowl of blessed water, an icon, candle, and a fresh herb that can be used for the blessing and later as seasoning.

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.*