



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

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March 23, 2025
Sunday of Christ
Through the Holy Cross

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services	Sun., Mar. 23 rd	Mission Vespers <i>(St. Alexander Nevsky, Allison Park)</i>	5 pm
	Mon., Mar. 24 th	Vespers for Feast of the Annunciation	7 pm
	Tues., Mar. 25 th	Feast of the Annunciation Hours Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9 am
	Wed., Mar. 26 th	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Fri., Mar. 28 th	Akathist to All Mighty God for Help in Trouble <i>Private Confessions</i>	7 pm
	Sat., Mar. 29 th	Great Vespers with Confession	6 pm
	Sun., Mar. 30 th	Sunday of Our Holy Father John of the Ladder ("Climacus") Sunday School Hours Divine Liturgy	9:15 am 9:45 am 10 am
		Mission Vespers <i>(HROC, Belle Vernon)</i>	5 pm

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

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

<p>Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)</p> <p>The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as <u>dead</u> men. Mary <u>stood</u> by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure <u>body</u>. Thou didst capture hell not being <u>tempted</u> by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, <u>granting</u> life. O Lord, Who didst <u>rise</u> from the dead, <u>glory</u> to Thee.</p> <p>Tone 1 Troparion (Of the Cross)</p> <p>O <u>Lord</u>, save Thy <u>people</u>, and bless Thine <u>inheritance</u>! <u>Grant</u> victories to the Orthodox <u>Christians</u> over their <u>adversaries</u>; and by <u>virtue</u> of Thy <u>Cross</u>, preserve Thy <u>habitation</u>!</p>	<p>Tone 7 Kontakion (Cross)</p> <p>Now the <u>flaming</u> sword no longer guards the gates of <u>Eden</u>; it has been mysteriously quenched by the <u>wood</u> of the Cross. The <u>sting</u> of death and the victory of hell have been <u>vanquished</u>; for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to <u>those</u> in hell: “Enter <u>again</u> into <u>Paradise</u>!”</p>	<p>Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Cross)</p> <p>O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)</p> <p>V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)</p>
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Epistle

(Hebrews 4:14-5:6)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins.

And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it* was He who said to Him:

“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.”

As *He* also says in another *place*:

“You are a priest forever
According to the order of
Melchizedek”;

Gospel

(Mark 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, **“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

“Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, **“Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”**

The Third Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Precious Cross

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

On this Sunday, midway through Great Lent, the Church brings out the precious Cross, lovingly adorned with flowers, to be offered to the faithful for veneration. As we endure the rigors of the fast, we are in need of renewed strength, of refreshment of spirit. The Cross gives us this strength, this refreshment, for it is through the Cross that joy has come into the world. Through the Cross we are granted victories over our spiritual adversaries. It is the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of holy monks, and the haven of salvation for the world. Through it, the sting of death and the victory of hell are vanquished, and we all enter again into Paradise.

Announcements:

Matushka Sophie is home and appreciates all of your prayers. She will receive visitors for short visits. She asks if anyone wants to stop by to please schedule through her daughter Rebecca (724-910-5333). In the meantime she will be keeping us in her prayers.

Fr. Stephan will hear confessions after ALL scheduled services throughout Lent. If one cannot make it due to health or other noble reasons, Fr. Stephan will be glad to hear your confessions at your house.

Don't forget to give Father a call to let him know when you would like to come to pray and he will make arrangements to have the Church open for you.

A reminder regarding fasting for Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgies... If you plan to attend and receive communion, you should fast from food and drink from your lunchtime meal onward. If you take medications, please follow the normal medical instructions. Also, if one needs to eat for medical reasons, please eat what you have to eat. Don't let this deter one from receiving. Remember, God knows our situation a little better than we do.

Paska orders are due TODAY! 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.

Most importantly,

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

Baking sessions will take place on **Thursday, March 27th Friday, March, 28th and Saturday March 29th starting at 7 am.** Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow parishioners by coming to one and/or all baking sessions.

On **Sunday, March 30th, HROC will be hosting the Diocesan Mission Vespers at 5 pm.** As we will be coming out of a marathon Paska baking session, we are asking for some assistance from our wonderful cooks/bakers. We are in need of a few Lenten desserts and side dishes such as a fruit and/or vegetable tray, pickled herring, etc. to round out our fellowship meal. *Many thanks in advance for your assistance!!!!*

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

In Loving Blessed Memory of Ronald A. Zeli by Martha, Loving Children & Grandchildren

In Loving Blessed Memory of Mother Irene, Father Theodore and Members of Soroka Families by Martha Zeli & Family

To the Glory of God and Thanksgiving for Zeli, Martin & Bertram Families and all Grandchildren by Mom/Baba Zeli

Notes from Father Stephan:

- ❖ The parish council expressed the need to have a plan in the event of an emergency. We will be asking for volunteers to help develop and implement a plan. For instance, this past Sunday there were five different tornadoes that touched down within 50 miles of the parish. The parish as well as some of the immediate neighbors experienced damage as a result of the storm. The arch in front of the rectory was blown away and the neighbor lost a large portion of their tree.
- ❖ We currently have five catechumens and others who have been asking if we could have an adult education class. We will start a class on **Sunday, March 30 at 9:15 before Liturgy.** All those who are interested in participating should let Father Stephan know.
- ❖ Father Stephan is looking for some volunteers to help with the polishing of the brass. Please let him know if you are interested.

Paschal Altar Candles: Gifts are now being accepted for the Paschal 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 “Paschal Candles” and leave it at the Candle Stand.

Midway Through Lent! The annual “**Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal 11 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.



During the month of March, HROC is joining Orthodox churches across the country in holding an **Orthodox Baby Shower**. What a fitting way to celebrate The Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Lady, when Gabriel, the messenger of God, appeared before Mary and announced the divine plan for our salvation through the birth of Christ!

National Orthodox Baby Shower

Did you know that pregnancy resource centers across the country provide free consultations, medical services, and material resources to help women in crisis pregnancies? Our parish is joining with Orthodox parishes across the country to hold a “baby shower” to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children! Join us in collecting supplies to be donated to New Life Options in Monongahela, our local pregnancy resource center. Babies use an average of 2,500 - 3,000 diapers in the first year of life. That’s a lot of diapers!

New Life Options has provided us with a list of needs:

Wipes	Baby Wash	Shampoo (unscented)
Diaper Cream	Diapers -Newborn, 4 & 5	Hooded baby towels, wash cloth
Crib sheets	Pacifiers	Nail clippers
Teething rings	Nasal aspirated	Comb/brush set
Sippy cups	Seasonal clothing (new) Boys needed most	Gently used clothing-babies & children

If interested in participating, we will be collecting the much needed items through **Saturday, March 30th**. Deacon David Rostcheck will pick up the collected items and deliver to New Life Options on our behalf.