



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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**March 30, 2025
 Sunday of Our Holy
 Father John of the
 Ladder (“Climacus”)**

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services	Sun., Mar. 30 th	Mission Vespers <i>(HROC, Belle Vernon)</i>	5 pm
	Wed., Apr. 2 nd	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	7 pm
	Fri., Apr. 4 th	Akathist to St. Mary of Egypt <i>Private Confessions</i>	7 pm
	Sat., Apr. 5 th	Great Vespers are CANCELED	6 pm
	Sun., Apr. 6 th	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Sunday School – <i>Children/Adult</i> Hours Divine Liturgy Holy Unction <i>(St. John the Baptist, Canonsburg)</i>	9:15 am 9:45 am 10 am 5 pm

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

<p>Tone 7 Troparion <i>(Resurrection)</i></p> <p>By Thy <u>Cross</u> Thou didst destroy <u>death</u>. To the thief Thou didst open <u>Paradise</u>. For the <u>Myrrhbearers</u> Thou didst change weeping into <u>joy</u>, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O <u>Christ</u> God, to <u>proclaim</u> that</p>	<p>Tone 7 Kontakion <i>(Resurrection)</i></p> <p>The <u>dominion</u> of death can no longer hold men <u>captive</u>, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its <u>powers</u>. Hell is <u>bound</u>, while the Prophets <u>rejoice</u> and cry: “The Savior has come to <u>those</u> in faith; enter,</p>	<p>Tone 7 Prokeimenon <i>(Resurrection)</i></p> <p>The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. <i>(Ps. 28:11)</i></p> <p><i>V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)</i></p>
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<p>Thou art <u>risen</u>, granting the <u>world</u> great <u>mercy</u>.</p> <p>Tone 1 Troparion (<i>St. John Climacus</i>)</p> <p>O <u>dweller</u> of the wilderness and angel in the <u>body</u>, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing <u>Father</u> John. Thou didst <u>receive</u> heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and <u>prayer</u>, healing the sick and the souls of those <u>drawn</u> to thee by faith. <u>Glory</u> to Him Who gave thee <u>strength</u>! Glory to Him Who granted thee a <u>crown</u>! Glory to Him Who grants <u>healing</u> to all!</p>	<p>you <u>faithful</u>, into the Resurrection!”</p> <p>Tone 4 Kontakion (<i>St. John Climacus</i>)</p> <p>The Lord truly set thee on the heights of <u>abstinence</u>, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the <u>universe</u>, O our father and <u>teacher</u> John.</p>	<p>Tone 7 Prokeimenon (<i>St. John Climacus</i>)</p> <p>Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! (<i>Ps. 149:5</i>)</p>
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Epistle

(*Hebrews 6:13-20*)

(*Resurrection*)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

saying, “*Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.*”

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute.

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath,

that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,

where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel

(Mark 9:17-31)

(Resurrection)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

He answered him and said, **“O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”**

Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So He asked his father, **“How long has this been happening to him?”** And he said, “From childhood.

“And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”**

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: **“Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”**

Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So He said to them, **“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”**

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*.

For He taught His disciples and said to them, **“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”**

*The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent:
Our Holy Father John of the Ladder ("Climacus")*

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

St. John was Abbot of the Mt. Sinai monastery in the seventh century, and he wrote his *Ladder of Divine Ascent* for his monks. The volume became a classic whose value was recognized even by those struggling to serve Christ in the non-monastic world. The book was read by the monks of Mt. Sinai during the Lenten season, and this Sunday of Great Lent commemorates the writer with gratitude, thereby commending his work to the entire Orthodox world. Below is a little background on Holy Father John.

John was born about 579 and came to the monastery at Mount Sinai when he was sixteen, learning from his spiritual father Martyrius, who tonsured him a monk at about age twenty. Martyrius died soon after, and John retired to Tholas, five miles from the monastery, to live as a hermit. He lived in prudent moderation, eating everything allowed but in small amounts. He slept very little and received the grace of continual prayer and the gift of tears. He became famous as a spiritual guide and received many

visitors—so many that some criticized him as a chatterbox. After this he kept silence for a year, finally speaking only when entreated by those who had once criticized him. John visited a large monastery in Egypt but continued to live at his hermitage. After forty years there he was elected abbot of Mount Sinai. John was a great spiritual director, and he placed much emphasis on mourning for one's sins, attaining inner stillness, and being constantly in prayer, invoking the Name of Jesus. It was for his monks that he wrote his famous book of monastic direction, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, which is read by monks during Great Lent. In it, he said, "When we die, we will not be criticized for having failed to work miracles. We will not be accused of having failed to be theologians or contemplatives. But we will certainly have to offer some explanation to God for not having mourned unceasingly." Before his death he resigned as abbot and returned to the quiet of a hermitage. He died in peace in about 649.

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.

TODAY at 5 pm is the Diocesan Mission Vespers. See you later!

Don't forget, we need to remember and visit our Home-Bound Parishioners especially over the Paschal season! We have quite a few parishioners who are not able to get out and about as well as they use to. See today's bulletin insert for a 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.*

Save the date: St. John the Baptist in Canonsburg will host "Living Orthodoxy – Overcoming Temptations and Addictions" presented by Dr. Albert Rossi on **April 5th** beginning at **4 pm** with Vespers followed by a Lenten meal will be served at 6 pm. Every Christian struggles with temptations, great and small, and they are certainly pervasive on social media. As we move through Lent, our temptations seem to become even more intense. The Orthodox Church has a wealth of profound teachings, both ancient and modern, on this subject, and Dr. Rossi will draw from them and from his insights and experience as a counselor. See the flyer on the vestibule bulletin board for more information.

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.

During the Lenten Season, we should try to look back at ourselves and our lives to see where we can improve and come closer to God. It's never too late to prepare for Pascha! Come and attend any of the upcoming Lenten services to assist you on your journey towards Pascha. 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.

The 3/23/25 Candlelist will be included in next week's bulletin.