



Church website: www.hrocby.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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April 27, 2025

Sunday of St. Thomas

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Services Sat., May 3rd **Great Vespers with Confession** **6 pm**

Sun., May 4th **Sunday of the Myrrhbearers**
 Sunday School **9:15 am**
 Hours **9:45 am**
 Divine Liturgy **10 am**

Memorial at Cross & Grave Blessings
Are Postponed until May 18th

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

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-16:8

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| <p>Tone 7 Troparion <i>(Pentecostarion)</i> From the <u>sealed</u> tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O <u>Life</u>! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O <u>Christ</u> God. <u>Renew</u> in us through them an upright <u>spirit</u>, by the greatness of Thy <u>mercy</u>, O <u>Resurrection</u> of all!</p> | <p>Tone 8 Kontakion <i>(Pentecostarion)</i> Thomas <u>touched</u> Thy <u>life-giving side</u> with an eager hand, O <u>Christ</u> God, when Thou <u>camest</u> to <u>Thine</u> Apostles through <u>closed</u> doors. He cried <u>out</u> with <u>all</u>: “Thou <u>art</u> my <u>Lord</u> and my God!”</p> | <p>Tone 3 Prokeimenon <i>(Pentecostarion)</i> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. <i>(Ps. 146:5)</i> <i>V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps. 146:1)</i></p> |
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Epistle (Resurrection)
(Acts 5:12-20)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.

Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

“Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

Gospel (*Resurrection*)

(*John 20:19-31*)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “**Peace *be* with you.**”

When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”

And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “**Peace to you!**”

Then He said to Thomas, “**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**”

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “**Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.**”

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Announcements:

Very Important Note from Fr. Stephan: Please drive carefully and reduce your speed. The weather becoming nice, children are out playing and riding bikes. There are a lot of children in the neighborhood as well as in the Church. *Please take caution when driving to and around the Church.*

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise wish to thank everyone who expressed Paschal greetings through the generous gifts, cards and prayers. Thank you for joining us throughout the Lenten services. May God grant you many rich blessings! Christ is Risen!

Thanks to everyone who generously donated candy and goodies for the Sunday Schoolers' Paschal Gift Bags! They were very much appreciated by our kids!

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. A SPECIAL REQUEST* – that we please try to share our "Paschal Feast" with our home-bounds as well as those we meet.

Please Note – The blessing of the graves will begin **TODAY at 1 pm**. We will begin with a brief service at the cross outside the church then onward to bless the graves in Belle Vernon cemetery. The grave blessings at other cemeteries (West Newton Cemetery; Monongahela Cemetery; Sacred Heart, Monongahela; Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora; Grandview Cemetery, Monessen) are **postponed** until **Sunday, May 18th (weather permitting)**. A blessing schedule with locations and proximate times will be forthcoming. Please contact Fr. Stephan to make arrangements to bless the graves of loved ones at other cemeteries.

Local glass artisan and friend of HROC "**Kiln it by Donna**" has created custom order, one of a kind Orthodox Glass Crosses as garden medallions, gravestone markers, table top centerpieces and any other custom design can be created as a beautiful reflection of our faith. In the vestibule there is a cross, flyer with samples pictures, business cards and a sign-up sheet if interested.

The Sunday after Pascha:

Holy Apostle Thomas

By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley

Thomas was also called the Twin. He was a sensitive, impulsive man who felt deeply and spoke quickly. When he thought his Master planned to go to Judea to die, Thomas instantly said to the other apostles, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (*John 11:16*). During the Last Supper, when the Lord said they would know the way He was to go, he spoke out, "Lord, we do not know where You are going; how can we know the way?" (*John 14:5, RSV*).

After the Resurrection, Thomas was not with the others when Christ appeared to them and, being emotionally wrung out from the strain of the last days, he was too numb to accept the apostles' testimony to Christ's Resurrection. He said he would not believe it unless he could see His wounds for himself on His risen Body. Christ came to the apostles and offered to show Thomas His wounds. Thomas fell down in joy, crying out, "My Lord and my God!" (*John 20:24-29*). Thus his hesitancy to believe confirmed the truth of the Resurrection for future generations. He ended his life as a martyr for his Lord.