



*Holy Resurrection  
Orthodox Church*

222 Mary Street, Rostraver Township, PA  
(Serving the faithful of Belle Vernon and surrounding areas)

Reverend Father 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

Church website: [www.hrocby.org](http://www.hrocby.org)

Church Social Hall: (724) 929-7448

**December 29, 2019**

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

<b>Services</b>	Wed., Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord, Jesus Christ/St. Basil the Great</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
		Moleben of the New Year	<b>After Liturgy</b>
	Sat., Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Great Vespers</b> (Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow)	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hieromartyr Theopemptus and the Holy Martyr Theonas</b>	
		Church School	<b>9:15 am</b>
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>
	Mon., Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Theophany Great Blessing of Water</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>

**Epistle**

*(Galatians 1:11-19)*

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it.

And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace,

to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

## Gospel

(Matthew 2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*”

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

“*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*”

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

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

*Next Week:* 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

*Gospel Reading:* Luke 3:1-18

### **The Holy Innocent Children of Bethlehem**

**By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley**

When the Magi from the East came to Herod wishing to venerate the newborn universal King, Herod sent them to search for the messianic King in Bethlehem, the town of David where the Messiah was prophesied to be born (Mic. 5). He asked them to bring word so that he might venerate Him also—though he planned instead to kill the Child as a rival to his own power.

The Magi were warned by God not to return to Herod, so they left the country after seeing Christ, without telling Herod where in Bethlehem the Child was. Herod, in a furious rage at having been so used, sent soldiers to kill all the young children of Bethlehem aged two years and younger, in order to be certain that he had killed the Christ Child also.

The small number of innocents killed in the little town of Bethlehem was nevertheless a crime of great proportion (hence the numbers poetically lamented: 14,000 in the Byzantine calendar; 64,000 in the Syrian calendar; 144,000 in the Middle Ages). This was not merely the slaughter of a few innocents but an eschatological outpouring of wrath predicted by the prophets, which would leave Rachel weeping for her children (Jer. 31:15).

### **Announcements:**

**Christmas Altar Candles:** The following Altar Candles were presented by the following:

***In Loving Memory of Ronald Anthony Zeli*** by Martha and Family

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise wish to thank everyone who expressed holiday greetings through cards, gifts and messages. May God grant you many rich blessings this Christmas and in the year to come!

“**Let’s All Gather at the River....**” The Mon Valley Clergy are planning to do a Theophany blessing at the Monongahela River on January 11<sup>th</sup>, location and time being worked out with community officials. Stay tuned.....

**Don't forget:** To submit your Home Blessings Envelopes this year.

The **2020 Church Calendars** have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

The annual "March for Life" (marking the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in the U.S.) is being held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Your prayers are requested for ALL to remember God's most precious and sacred gift to us ~ life!

**Collection:** Dec. 22nd: \$1,636.00