

HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

***Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti! Christos Voskrece!
Al-Maseeho Qam! Hristos a Inviat!***

The Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Smolcic May 1, 2011
Cell Phone: (724) 516-9390 (weekdays 8:30 am–4 pm – however, do not leave messages)
Home Phone: (724) 837-8957 (evenings & weekends)
Email: padresam52@msn.com
Church website: www.hrocby.org *Church school website:* www.hrocschool.com
Choir Director: Peter Merella

Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20 **Gospel Reading:** John 20:19-31
Next Week: Acts 6:1-7 **Next Week:** Mark 15:43-16:8

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

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| Services | Sun., May 8 th | Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women – 3rd Sunday of Pascha | |
| | | Church School | 9:15 am |
| | | Pro-Liturgy | 10 am |

Announcements: Fr. Sam, Matushka Marsha & Josué extend warmest festal greetings to all Parishioners and wish to thank all for their Paschal gifts, cards and greetings! Christ is Risen!

TODAY following Coffee Hour -- if the weather permits -- We will celebrate a Memorial for our Beloved Departed at the Cross in front of the Church doors. A Procession will then proceed to the Belle Vernon Cemetery to bless the graves of family members and former parishioners. Otherwise, the Memorial will be re-scheduled to the next Sunday that Father Sam will be present (May 15th).

Fr. Sam will be away from Wednesday, May 4th through the evening of Tuesday, May 10th.
Fr. Deacon Rostcheck will be with us for the Pro-Liturgy on Sunday, May 8th. Priests "on call" for pastoral needs will be Frs. Fred Pfeil - (724) 326-4183 and Fr. Gregory Peterson -- (724) 483-4441. Matushka Marsha will also be away on those days.

PLEASE NOTE new day of Monthly Parish Council Meeting -- Wednesday, May 11th at 7 pm.

APOSTLE THOMAS SUNDAY

It is a grave injustice to Apostle Thomas that he is best remembered by most Christians as the one who doubted Christ had reappeared after having been crucified, an event in this holy man's life that has lent his name to a phrase denoting an incredulous person - 'doubting Thomas.' When Jesus appeared before Thomas to display his wounds, he appeared before the entire world in a gesture so dramatic that for all time any Christian who finds himself hesitant can identify with no less that Apostle Thomas himself. This event overshadowed the tremendous missionary accomplishments of a man who had no doubts about pledging his life to the Savior, and who had no misgivings about traveling to distant India to carry the message of Jesus Christ.

In addition to his unbelief where he confirmed the faith in the Resurrection of the Lord, he revealed to the world the wondrous glorification of the Mother of God by his late arrival to her funeral. When he arrived and asked for the tomb of the Most Pure to be opened, the body was not there showing that the Lord had taken His Mother to His heavenly home.

As hardy and as courageous as any of the twelve chosen by the Lord, Thomas accepted without hesitation the challenge of converting a darkly suspicious host of people who lived in India. In this forbidding area he had outdistanced his fellow apostles in firmly establishing Christianity in one of the least spiritual lands on earth. To this day, there stands a shrine in his memory built in ancient times in Malypur and the most common name in the Christian community there happens to be Thomas. The mountain on which the Portuguese installed a beautiful cross in tribute to his work there is appropriately named Mt. St. Thomas.

St. Thomas was an enthusiastic messenger of the Messiah; therefore it was inevitable that he would incur the murderous wrath of one of the lesser tribal kings in India who imprisoned him and had him executed. His feast day is October 6th.

