

# 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 15, 2011  
*Cell Phone:* (724) 516-9390 (weekdays 8:30 am–4 pm – however, do not leave messages)  
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*Choir Director:* Peter Merella

**Epistle Reading:** Acts 9:32-42 **Gospel Reading:** John 5:1-15  
**Next Week:** Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 **Next Week:** John 4:5-42

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

<b>Services</b>	Sun., May 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday of the Paralytic – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha</b>
		Paschal Memorial at Cross <b>After coffee hour</b> ( <i>Procession to Belle Vernon Cemetery for Grave Blessings</i> ) – weather permitting
	Sun. May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b>
		Church School 9:15 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

**Announcements:** The Lofink Family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness to their parish family for the prayers and generous monetary gift collected by St. Barbara's to help the Busick family rebuild their family home and life. An unfortunate tragedy such as this reminds all of us how lucky we are to have each other. Homes can be rebuilt and refurnished but nothing can bring back a loved one. We are thanking God each day that our family has been blessed that no one was hurt. Take a moment today to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for everything that God has blessed you with!

**TODAY** following Coffee Hour -- weather permitting -- 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 the following Sunday. Also, if anyone has a request for a Paschal Grave Blessing at locations other than Belle Vernon or West Newton, please see Father soon so arrangements can be made.

As we are all cleaning and sprucing up during these rainy Spring days, consider donating your unwanted treasures to the Church. Planning for the Summer Flea Market is now underway. The dates

for this event are **June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**. *All items need to be brought to the church by May 29<sup>th</sup>*. There will be a pre-sale on **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** after Liturgy. If you need someone to pick up your items at home, let Fran Sabo know. If you would like to help out either Friday or Saturday, your assistance would be greatly appreciated! Also, any donations of bake goods for these two days would be welcome! Thanks as always for your generosity!

2011 Graduates – It's hard to believe that next month will signal that another academic school year will be coming to a close. Don't forget to let Fr. Sam know of our 2011 Graduates so that they can be recognized during Divine Liturgy in the beginning of June. Please leave their name(s) at the candlestand. Thanks!

*"Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me."* Mt. 25:40 - God Bless our Parish for joining together once again to help a neighbor in need. Unfortunately, disaster struck close to home through our fellow parishioner Carol Lofink. Carol's sister, Cindy Busick and her family lost their entire home during a tornado that swept through Sanford, North Carolina the week of Good Friday. The Guild expresses their appreciation and thanks to all who generously donated, to the tune of \$1,000, to help the Busick family get back on their feet. Also, our Youth Group will be sending the 'Health kits' they have assembled to help other families in need from this horrendous disaster. May God's Mercy and Blessings Touch Everyone!

## ***FEAST DAY OF St. Pachomios the Great – May 15***

Among the least known yet most venerated of our many saints was Pachomios, whose obscure life was such that his distance from man placed him closer to God, and yet he served both. Pachomios was one of the first monastics and the founder of communal monasticism.

Monasticism is not only one of the most sincere expressions of piety, but it is also one of the sturdiest pillars of the Christian faith. Monasticism is directed toward the attainment of the highest spiritual peace and serenity through prayer and meditation. The monastic thereby strives to attain likeness to God, in whose image all men are created. Through the strength of spirit and mind that the monasteries have provided, the light of Christianity would have been considerably dimmed, if not extinguished altogether.

Pachomios was born to pagan parents during the reign of Constantine and was a soldier in the Byzantine army. He thoroughly enjoyed the military life but had a growing need for spiritual enlightenment so he walked away from the urban comforts and turned to a life of earnest meditation and prayer in the desert of Tavennisis in Egypt.

His estrangement from society developed into a greater intimacy with God and after many years in retreat his reputation as a man of God was spread throughout the empire. Within a decade, a total of twelve monasteries had been established in the desert by Pachomios. The rules of monasticism laid down by him are still followed today.

Although St. Pachomios would have preferred a complete isolation from society, he realized that monasteries strategically located would lead to greater and more dedicated population of Christians who would see to more churches, since not all of Christianity could be wrapped up in tidy packages of humanity in cloisters. He believed that the family unit was the nucleus of Christianity.

Many miracles came to be attributed to Pachomios. Many people sought him for counsel and to receive his blessing. Unlike the martyrs, Pachomios came to a peaceful end in his beloved desert on May 15, 395.

**The Leonard J. Parzynski Funeral Home sponsored this week's bulletin.**

