

HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

The Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Smolcic July 24, 2011
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Choir Director: Peter Merella

Epistle Reading: Romans 12:6-14 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 9:1-8

Next Week: Romans 15:1-7 **Next Week:** Matthew 9:27-35

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

Services	Sun., July 31 st	Forefeast Procession of the Lifegiving Cross; Righteous Eudocimus; Martyr Julitta	
		Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	Sat., Aug. 6 th	Feast of the Transfiguration	
		Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Fruit	9 am

Announcements: Congratulations and God's blessings to our First Confession group: ***Sophia Brand, Tommy Kovatch, Tanner Pierce and Austin Pierce.***

Church Traditions Associated with August Holy Days:

Dormition Fast begins at sundown on July 31st.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION – AUGUST 6.

It is customary to bring quantities of fresh fruit to be blessed on the Transfiguration. It is a harvest celebration when fruits are usually of high quality and availability. Grapes, melons and berries are popular as are bananas, pears, apples, plums and peaches.

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS – AUGUST 15.

Dormition marks the holy day observing the Falling Asleep and Burial of the Theotokos. It is an observation of the Church's first funeral. This fact along with the long standing practice of bringing flowers to the Virgin, inspires the faithful to bring flowers (especially those from their own gardens) and sweet smelling herbs like basil and oregano to be blessed in Church.

These flowers and herbs are then dried and burned at home during prayers like incense. Or, in the case of the herbs, used in cooking.

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – PUGUST 29.

This holy day is always observed as a solemn fast. Furthermore, it is a pious custom of the faithful throughout the Orthodox world to avoid eating any food served on a dish, plate or platter on this day out of respect for St. John. His head was retrieved from his place of execution at Salome's request and presented to Herod on a platter at his birthday banquet.

HELP WANTED, NO EXPERIENCE or SPECIAL TRAINING NECESSARY, HOURS FLEXIBLE! Where could you find a help wanted ad like this? Help is needed in tackling the weeds that have been growing around the parish/rectory with the recent rains. With the donation of some of your time to fill a plastic grocery bag with weeds you can put a tremendous dent into this project. Please consider stopping by the parish/rectory whenever you can to lend a hand! ***Teamwork works wonders!*** Thank you in advance. Please bring your own gardening equipment.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Fall Festival will be held on **Sunday, October 2nd from 12 pm to 6 pm** or until we're sold out. Please see today's insert listing all cooking sessions starting at 7 a.m. on Saturdays. Come join in the fellowship while helping make Baba's specialties.

Also, when purchasing pop for your cookout this summer, please consider purchasing an extra case of pop or water and donating towards this worthy cause. ***Your donation(s) DIRECTLY contribute to the success of this endeavor!***

Feast Day of Great Martyr Christina

Christina was from Trye in Syria and the daughter of a pagan named Urban. She is a miraculous example of one brought to faith in Christ without any human intervention. When she was about eleven years old, her father seeing her great beauty and wanting to protect her from men until she was grown, made her live alone on the top floor of a fine house with slaves, all worldly comforts, and gold and silver idols. Passing the time by looking out the window, Christina came by her meditations on the beauty and order of nature to believe in the one, living God. An Angel of the Lord then came to her, marked her with the sign of the Cross and instructed her in the truth of the Gospel. The newly-enlightened Christina smashed all the idols in her room, so infuriating her father that he sent her to be tortured and beheaded for her faith. Her father, though in good health and in the prime of life, died that night. Christina was subjected to horrible tortures and mutilations and finally died by the sword, her faith unshaken.

Troparion to St. Christina: *O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice. O my Bridegroom, Thee I love, and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee, for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee. Accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.*

The Shelby D. Ferguson Funeral Home sponsored this week's bulletin.

