

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 August 14, 2011
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Church website: www.hrocby.org Church school website: www.hrocschool.com
Choir Director: Peter Merella

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 14:22-34
Next Week: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 **Next Week:** Matthew 17:14-23

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

Services	Mon., Aug. 15 th	Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy and Ever Virgin Theotokos	
		Divine Liturgy	7 am
		Blessing of Flowers and Herbs	
	Sun., Aug. 21 st	Apostle Thaddeus (of 70); Martyr Bassa & Children; Venerable Abramius	
		Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Announcements: EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT HOLY RESURRECTION

Walter Trembach is retiring as the Janitor of our Church at the end of September after many faithful years of dedication and service. Bill Lofink has a partial list of duties required of the position at the Candlestand. If you would like to be considered as a candidate for the position, see Chuck Urdenis.

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS – EUGUST 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.

HELP WANTED TO GET OUR CHURCH READY FOR OUR FALL FESTIVAL! 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.

August 15th – The Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God

The Lord who, on Sinai, gave the Fifth Commandment: 'Honor thy father and mother', showed by His own example how one must reverence one's parents. Hanging in agony on the Cross, He remembered His mother, and indicating the Apostle John, said to her: 'Woman, behold thy son!', and to John: 'Behold thy mother!' And with this concern for His mother, He breathed His last.

John had a home on Sion in Jerusalem where he settled the Mother of God and left her to pass her remaining days on earth. By her prayers, her kindly advice, her meekness and patience, she was of immense help to her Son's apostles. She spent virtually the rest of her life in Jerusalem, often going round the places that reminded her of the great events and the great works associated with and performed by her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem, and the Mount of Olives. Of her journeys further afield, her visit to St. Ignatius the God-Bearer is recorded, as are those to St. Lazarus the Four-days-dead, Bishop of Cyprus, to the Holy Mountain, to which she gave her blessing, and her stay in Ephesus with John during a fierce persecution of Christians in Jerusalem.

In old age, she often prayed to her Lord and God on the Mount of Olives, on the spot from which He ascended to take her from this world. One day, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed that she would enter into rest in three days' time, and the angel gave her a palm branch to be carried in her funeral procession. She returned home with great joy, with the heartfelt hope that she would see Christ's apostles once more in this life. The Lord fulfilled her desire and all the apostles, brought by angels and clouds, gathered together at John's house on Sion. It was with great joy that she saw the holy apostles, and she encouraged, advised and upheld them. Then peacefully gave her soul into God's hands without the slightest physical pain or struggle. The apostles took the coffin containing her body, from which an aromatic fragrance arose, and accompanied by many Christians, took it to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the grave of Sts. Joachim and Anna. By God's providence, they were hidden from the wicked Jews by a cloud. A Jewish priest, Anthony, touched the coffin with his hand, intending to overturn it, but at that moment an angel of God cut off both his hands. He cried out with the pain, begging the apostles' help, and was healed in confessing his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was left to the Apostle Thomas, who was delayed, again by God's providence, to reveal a new and glorious mystery about the holy Mother of God. He arrived on the third day, and desired to embrace the body of the holy and most pure. When the apostles opened her grave, he found only the winding sheet – the body was not in the grave. That evening, she appeared to the apostles, surrounded by a multitude of angels, and said to them: 'Rejoice; I will be with you always!' It is not known exactly how old the Mother of God was at the time of her falling asleep, but the prevailing belief is that she had reached the age of sixty.

The James C. Stump Funeral Home sponsored this week's bulletin.

