

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 January 3, 2010
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.hrocbv.org *Church school website:* www.hrocschool.com
Choir Director: Peter Merella

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 **Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:1-8
Next Week: Ephesians 4:7-13 **Next Week:** Matthew 4:12-17

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

Altar Servers: Paul Mica / Tommy Slavic

Services:	Tues., Jan. 5 th	Vesperal Divine Liturgy: Holy Theophany	7 pm
	Sat., Jan. 9 th	Great Vespers Sacrament of Confession	7 pm
	Sun., Jan. 10 th	Sunday After Theophany St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene	
		Church School	9:15 am
		Divine Liturgy	10 am

Announcements: May God provide comfort to Fran Sabo at the passing of her father, *Ed Hamilton*, who died and was buried this past week. May his Memory be Eternal!

TODAY His Grace, Bishop MELCHISEDEK will be hosting a **Christmas Party** for all Archdiocesan Youth & their Families at the Bishop's Residence from 3-6 pm. Dinner will be served at 3:30 pm.

Our Parish has recently registered with WPXI-TV (Channel 11) to list Closings or Delays of services or meetings. If you are wondering about weather related changes in start times or cancellations, check WPXI first before making phone calls to other parishioners. Do this by tuning in on a newscast on Channel 11 or by checking closings on the internet by typing in the keyword , wpxi school closings. Furthermore, Trooper Will Pierce of PA State Police (and parishioner of Holy Resurrection) has agreed to supply Fr. Sam with information regarding road and travel conditions in Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties. This information will be invaluable in reaching decisions about Closings or Delays. Thanks Will!

It is very important that we, as Orthodox Christians, do not abandon our holy traditions associated with Holy Days and family life. One such tradition is the blessing of homes following Theophany. Fewer requests for home blessings seem to come in every year. This is quite sad. Many families are not even regretful that they neglect to get their home blessed. Why are we so eager to paganize our

family life and forget all the holy traditions of the faith? When we discard one sanctification of life after another and find ourselves and our children and grandchildren 'overcome by the world', how is it that we wonder why? All parishioners are reminded to promptly submit their Home Blessings Envelopes this year. **There are only 87 days in 2010 between the Feast of Theophany and PASCHA!** Father Sam will need to get to the Home Blessings as soon as possible. Please utilize your envelope in your envelope box designated for Home Blessing and turn it in. .

Theophany with the Great Blessing of Water scheduled this week is a Major Feast of the Lord and very closely related to the Feast of the Nativity. Make plans to attend this beautiful festal celebration on Tuesday evening. On a sad note, the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord (New Year's Eve) was very poorly attended despite an O.K. weather forecast. How many young people from the Parish went to parties on New Year's Eve but did not consider going to Church? The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of New Year's Eve and the Moleben of the New Year that follows are delightful ways to close out one year and begin the next. Many modern Orthodox Christians are losing (or have entirely lost) the mind, heart and consciousness of the Church as the center of their lives. This occurs when the great holy days are ignored along with the deep message they convey to our lives. Thought will be given to making our Parish's New Year observation a family event focused on the Eucharist, a time of spiritual reflection and an opportunity to gather socially to welcome in the New Year as a spiritual family.

If you have not picked up your 2010 Church Calendars yet, they are available in the rack to the right of the doors in the vestibule. Get yours today!

Now that the holidays are done, don't forget to bring your unwanted Christmas cards to give to Holy Transfiguration Monastery for reuse. Please leave your cards on the small table next to the 2010 Church Calendars. Thanks!

SOMETHING TO PONDER: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord." [*Jeremiah 17:7*]

WEEKLY PRAYER: Grant us, dear Lord, to know not only what we ought to do in living a truly Christian and spiritual life, but the way in which we can do it. Amen.

THOUGHTS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS: *by: Basil of Seleucia*

She Bore in her Womb the Bread of Heaven

A great mystery has been performed through Mary, a mystery that exceeds all understanding and knowledge. The Mother of God has received tremendous powers, in virtue of which she is greater than all the saints we honor.

Christ conferred on some of his servants grace to heal the sick not only by touching them but even by just letting their shadow fall on them: in Jerusalem people laid their sick friends in the street so that the shadow of Peter might heal them. [*Acts 5:15*] That being so, what powers should He have conferred on His Mother?

And if Christ declared the Apostle Peter blessed by entrusting the keys of the kingdom to him, is it conceivable that He should not have proclaimed Mary most blessed of all, since she was considered worthy to give birth to Him whom Peter recognized as the Son of the living God? [*Matt. 16-17*]

And if Paul was marked out as 'a chosen instrument', [*Acts 9:15*] because by his preaching he had carried to every part of the world the name of Christ, what sort of instrument will the Mother of God be, she who carried in her womb the Bread of Heaven that would be distributed to the faithful to be their food and their strength?

***** IMPORTANT:** Until further notice, **do not call the rectory number – calls and/or messages left on that line will not be received or answered in the immediate future.**

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

