

# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

***Christ is Born! Christos Rozhdayetsya!  
Kala Christougenna! Maseeha Helehka!***

The Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Smolcic December 27, 2009  
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Church website: www.hrocbo.org Church school website: www.hrocschool.com  
Choir Director: Peter Merella

**Epistle Reading:** Galatians 1:11-19 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:13-23

**Next Week:** 2 Timothy 4:5-8 **Next Week:** Mark 1:1-8

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

**Altar Servers:** Mark Farrell / Zach Billie

<b>Services:</b>	Thurs., Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Vespereal Divine Liturgy: Circumcision of Christ / St. Basil's Day Moleben of the New Year</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Holy Prophet Malachi; Martyr Gordius; Venerable Genevieve of Paris</b>	
		<b>CHRISTMAS BREAK – NO Church School</b>	
		General Confession	<b>9:30 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>
	Tues., Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Vespereal Divine Liturgy: Holy Theophany</b>	<b>7 pm</b>

**Announcements:** St. Barbara's Altar Guild will hold their annual Christmas dinner on **Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** in the social hall of the Church. Since all ladies of the Parish are considered members, we hope that you will arrange your schedule to attend the dinner and use this as an opportunity to bring us closer together. This will be a covered dish dinner and we are asking that you bring one of the following: a side dish of vegetables or fruit, a salad, or a desert. A short meeting will begin at **6:30 pm** and will be followed by the dinner. Please call one of the following officers if you will be attending: Gloria Yuschak (724/326-4810), Evelyn Sepitko (724/929-6090) or Wendy Hatalowich (724/736-2014).

Fr. Sam, Matushka Marsha & Josué wish to thank everyone who expressed holiday greetings through cards, gifts and messages. May God grant you many rich blessings this Christmas and in the year to come.

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.

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!

His Grace, Bishop MELCHISEDEK invites all Archdiocesan Youth & their Families to a **Christmas Party** at the Bishop's Residence on Sunday, January 3, 2010 from 3-6 pm. Dinner will be served at 3:30 pm. RSVP by December 28<sup>th</sup> to Helene Emerick at 724-941-4293 or Patty Lear at plear@verizon.net - Event sponsored by the Archdiocesan Youth Committee.

**Christmas Altar Candles:** The following Altar Candles were presented by the following:

The Dudzinski Family *in memory of Ben Dudzinski, Helen Koslosky & Mike Backo*

This year we are celebrating the New Year with a special service! In order to encourage fuller attendance and to provide families the opportunity to experience the Church's inauguration of the beginning of a new year, we will celebrate the Feast of Christ's Circumcision / St. Basil's Day with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy at **7:00 pm on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Immediately following the Liturgy, we will celebrate the Church's special Moleben of the New Year. Scheduling the service at 7:00 pm on New Year's Eve invites couples who are going 'out on the town' to first transition to the New Year in church. Instead of simply being an opportunity to 'eat, drink and be merry', the Church's New Year celebration affords us the opportunity to begin the New Year with the Holy Eucharist and in thanksgiving in reflection of all of God's gifts to us. Many parishes across the country have very well attended New Year Liturgies since they have adopted this tradition.

**"Well done O good and faithful servants!"** Thank you and God's blessings to everyone for their hard work and dedication to our annual Festival. A final accounting of this year's Fall Festival is complete (see the spreadsheet insert). In spite of the difficult circumstances this year that have touched many, God has richly blessed us with a successful Festival.

**THOUGHTS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS:** *by: Antipater of Bostra*

*Gabriel's Song*

Gabriel was invited to Nazareth to bring to the Virgin the glad annunciation from the Father. The angel found Mary at home and greeted her with these words:

Rejoice, you that are full of grace; the Lord is with you.  
Rejoice, you that are the first and only one to conceive a babe free from sin.  
Rejoice, you that bring into the world the beginning of life.  
Rejoice, O Virgin Mother.  
Rejoice, O Mother unmarried yet not without child.  
Rejoice, O Mother unwed but not unfruitful.  
Rejoice, you that await the birth yet shall not travail.  
Rejoice, you that bear the deliverer from your father Adam.  
Rejoice, you that without wearying sustain the sustainer of creation.  
Rejoice, you that without pain are intermediary between God and humanity.  
Rejoice, you that give birth to a God who is not only God, to a man who is not just a man.  
Rejoice, you that are full of grace: The Lord is with you.'

The Virgin did not give importance to the exhortation to rejoice but reflected on this greeting and said: 'What can this salutation be? And who is this who entered our home without an invitation?'

The angel explained: 'Fear not, Mary. You have acquired the grace that the first woman lost. She, alone, yielded to the tempter's guile. Now you, alone, are bearing the conqueror of temptation. You will bring forth a son and shall call his name Jesus.'

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

