

# 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 May 16, 2010  
Cell Phone: (724) 516-9390 (weekdays 8:30 am–4 pm – however, do not leave messages)  
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Email: padresam52@msn.com  
Church website: www.hrocbv.org Church school website: www.hrocschool.com  
Choir Director: Peter Merella

**Epistle Reading:** Acts 20:16-18, 28-36      **Gospel Reading:** John 17:1-13

**Next Week:** Acts 2:1-11      **Next Week:** John 7:37-52, 8:12

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

**Altar Servers:** Tommy Slavic / Zach Billie

<b>Services:</b>	Sat., May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Great Vespers</b> Sacrament of Confession	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Holy Pentecost with Kneeling Prayers</b> Church School Divine Liturgy	<b>9:15 am</b> <b>10 am</b>

**Announcements:** Word was conveyed to Father this week that Sophia Krill will be leaving the area for Texas on Tuesday, May 18. She will relocate to the town of Katy to be near her children and grandchildren. Daughter Nancy wishes to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers and support during this difficult time of Sophia's illness. Nancy will soon supply us with more specific address information as the relocation nears. God go with you dear Sophia!

**WEDDING BANNERS ANNOUNCEMENT #2:** *Gregory Johnson and Ann Weinheimer*, both of this parish, will be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, on **Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**NEXT WEEK will be HROC's First Annual Bike/Walk Trail Picnic**, which start around **1:30 pm at Cedar Creek Park**. We will be assembling at Pavilion #19 which is right along the walking trail and river. Dave Slavic is coordinating the details of the event. Everyone should bring their "lunch": a meat to grill, a beverage, a side dish and/or a dessert to share. The day will start with a grill-out Picnic and the biking or trail-walking will follow. By early evening we will reassemble back at Cedar Creek for socializing and a final snack. Let Dave know **TODAY OR CALL HIM** at 724-872-7586 to convey the number in your party that will attend.

The Coffee Hour Committee is looking for a few volunteers to help out by taking a coffee hour. Just pencil your name on the coffee hour calendar located on the Social Hall bulletin board. You don't have to volunteer alone, ask a buddy! Coffee Hour is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioner. Come enjoy the fellowship!

If anyone has a request for Paschal Grave Blessings at locations other than Belle Vernon or West Newton, please see Father soon so arrangements can be made.

Something new this year! Plans are in the works for a Flea Market during the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>. While doing your Spring cleaning, please consider donating any items you don't want, need or use to the church social hall. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS**      *St. Simeon the New Theologian*

### **Progress in Self-Knowledge**

I pray you, brothers and sisters: let us strive with every means at our disposal to know ourselves. Then each one of us, starting with this self-knowledge, will be able to discover what is too high for us.

We need to know ourselves so well that we can say like David: 'I am a worm and no man' [Ps. 22:7] or like Abraham: 'I am dust and ashes.' [Gen. 18:7] Otherwise it will be impossible to understand even the smallest part of the Word of God, to interpret it in a spiritual way worthy of the Spirit of wisdom. Without humility it is not possible to become the recipient of the gifts of the Spirit.

When souls undergo purification through penitence and the practice of the commandments, they receive grace to discover themselves completely and to know what is beyond their reach. By intensifying their purification, by deepening their humility, they begin gradually to understand, albeit in obscure fashion, the things of God and what belongs to God.

According to the measure of their understanding they increase their penitence, they become ever more humble, they consider themselves more and more unworthy of such knowledge and of the revelation of the divine mysteries.

Humility is a solid wall protecting them. If this understanding is like a house in which they have taken up residence, they can dwell there safe from any kind of arrogance.

Grow in this way from day to day in faith, hope and love for God, go ahead in knowledge and sanctification. Go ahead and He can clearly keep track of your progress.

