

# 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 29, 2010  
Cell Phone: (724) 516-9390 (weekdays 8:30 am–4 pm – however, do not leave messages)  
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Church website: [www.hrocby.org](http://www.hrocby.org) Church school website: [www.hrocschool.com](http://www.hrocschool.com)  
Choir Director: Peter Merella

**Epistle Reading:** 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4      **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 22:1-14

**Next Week:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15      **Next Week:** Matthew 22:35-46

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

**Altar Servers:** Tommy Slavic / Paul Mica

**Services** Sun., Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>      **Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth**  
**(parents of St. John the Baptist) &**  
**Saint Abdias of Persia**  
General Confession      **9 am**  
Divine Liturgy      **9:30 am**

**Announcements:** THIS SUNDAY, August 29<sup>th</sup>, *Beheading of the Prophet St. John the Baptist*, is a holy day 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.

**Oh no, it can't be!** Yes, Church School will be resuming on **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**! Where **did** the summer go? As per custom in our Parish, on the 12<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate a **Molieben for the Beginning of Instruction** with all students and teachers participating. Also, others in the Parish who are involved in the teaching profession or as students in other schools or institutions of higher learning are warmly invited to participate. Tentatively, actual Church School classes will hold their **first session on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Please note that we will be returning to 'regular time' for the start of Sunday Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**.

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 parishioners. Come enjoy the fellowship!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our **Annual Fall Festival** will be held on **Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 6 pm** or until we're sold out. Please see the listing all cooking sessions starting at 7 a.m. on Saturdays posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule. 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!**

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS**

by St. Nikolai Velimirovic

*On John the Forerunner, as foretold by Isaiah*

'The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God' [Is. 40-3]. When a king plans to visit some place, he sends a herald before him. A special king has a special herald. The herald of Christ the King in the wilderness was Moses; in Jerusalem, the prophets; in Nazareth, the Archangel; in Bethlehem, the wise men from the East; John at the Jordan. No other king in the whole of history has ever had such heralds. St. John the Baptist was as unusual and remarkable as the other heralds of Christ. He was a voice crying in a twofold wilderness: that of Jordan and that of man. As the wilderness of Jordan was unfruitful and dry, so was the wilderness of the human soul. John was not able to make the human wilderness green and fruitful, but he cleared the ground and ploughed it, and thus prepared the earth and leveled the ground for the great Sower who, coming, brings with Him the seed and the rain - the seed of knowledge and the rain of grace from on high - to make all green and fruitful. John prepared the way by repentance, and made the highway straight by the baptism of water. The way and the highway are the souls of men. By repentance, the human soul prepares to receive Christ's seed and, by the baptism of water, the seed is implanted deep in the earth of the human heart. The proud and the lowly, when they go down naked into the water, are made equal in their nothingness before the majesty of the glory of Christ the Saviour: 'Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.' These are not words about earthly valleys and hills, but about the lowly and the proud among men. As corpses in the grave are all as one to the eyes of a living man, so all sinners - the lowly and the proud, slaves and masters - are as one before the living God.

This wonderful vision was seen by Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet of the one, true and living God.

O Lord, Thou King of heaven, whom the hosts of heaven worship day and night, look once more on our nothingness and, by Thine abasement and suffering for us, save us! To Thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

