

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

187 Justin Lane Bluefield, WV 24701

www.stmarysbluefield.org---email: fathermark677@yahoo.com

www.ACROD.org YouTube: ACRODDIOCESE and ACROD Facebook

Rev. Mark Tyson, Pastor

(304) 323-2648 Cell: (304) 888-4576 Farm: (276) 988-3921

Sunday December 25, 2016

The Nativity, according to the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ (one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church); The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; Commemoration of the shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord: (Annunciation to the shepherds, and Adoration of the shepherds); Saint Eugenia of Rome (ca.258) (see also December 24); Saint Anastasia of Sirmium (ca.304) (see also December 22); Saint Adalsindis, a nun at Hamay-les-Marchiennes Abbey, near Arras in France (ca.715); Saint Æthelburh of Wilton (Alburgh, Alburga), a member of the royal house of Wessex, Abbess of Wilton Abbey (810); Massacre of Monk-martyr Jonah, and with him 50 monks and 65 laymen, martyrs at St. Tryphon of Pechenga Monastery, by the Swedes (1589); New Hieromartyr Michael, Priest (1930).

Services for the week of December 25

Monday, December 26: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 27: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr

Saturday, December 31: 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Parish News

WELCOME: to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

OFFERING: December 18: \$669.00

A BLESSED NATIVITY is wished to all of St. Mary's family and friends from the Fr. Mark Tyson family. May the newborn Savior bless us with His eternal light and may we celebrate this Feast with purity of heart!

PLEASE REMEMBER Georgette Mikel who is recovering from an injury at home. May God grant her a healthy and happy Christmas.

The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, *Rejoice, thou that art highly favored ... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son* (Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave which shepherds used as a sheepfold. In this cave--on the night between Saturday and Sunday, on the 25th of December--the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin's womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. The shepherds heard a multitude of God's angels singing: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:14). At that time three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped Him as the King of kings, and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants. To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.