

**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 August 20, 2017

Afterfeast of the Dormition; Prophet Samuel; Hieromartyr Philip, Bishop of Heraclea, and with him Martyrs Severus, Memnon, and 37 soldiers in Thrace; Martyr Lucius the senator of Cyprus; Martyrs Heliodorus and Dosa (Dausa) in Persia; Martyr Photina at the door of the Church in Blachernae; Martyr King Oswin of Deira; New Martyr Theocharis of Neapolis (Nevşehir) in Cappadocia (†1740); **Other events:** repose of Hieromonk Seraphim (Rose) of Platina

Services for the week of August 20

Saturday, August 26: 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!

OFFERINGS: August 13: \$1145.00

PLEASE REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who are suffering from serious illness. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

THANK YOU to all of our parishioners who were able to attend the divine services for the parish patronal Feast of the Dormition. Many people came out. May the Mother of God always bless you and be with you.

WANDA SMITH has returned to teaching this last week in Roanoke. She is very grateful for all of your prayers and remembrance.

THE HOLY PROPHET SAMUEL

Samuel was the fifteenth and last judge of Israel. He lived eleven hundred years before Christ. Samuel was born of the tribe of Levi of the parents Elkanah and Hannah in a place called Ramatha or Arimathea where the noble Joseph was born [Joseph of Arimathea]. The barren Hannah besought Samuel from God through weeping and dedicated him to God when he was three years of age. Living in Shiloh near the Ark of the Covenant, Samuel, in his twelfth year, had a true revelation from God concerning the punishments which were pending before the house of the high priest Eli because of the immorality of his sons Hophni and Phineas. That revelation soon materialized: the Philistines defeated the Israelites, slew both of Eli's sons and captured the Ark of the Covenant. When the messenger informed Eli of this tragedy, he fell dead to the ground and expired in the ninety-eighth year of his life. The same thing occurred to his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phineas. From then on and for twenty years the Israelites were the slaves of the Philistines. After this period of time, God sent Samuel to the people to preach repentance if they wished to be saved from their enemies. The people repented and rejected the foreign idols that they served and recognized Samuel as a prophet, priest and judge. Then Samuel set out with an army against the Philistines and with God's help confused and defeated them and liberated the land and the people. After that, Samuel peacefully judged his people until old age. Seeing him in old age, the people asked him to install a king for them in his place. In vain Samuel tried to turn the people away from this, saying to them that God is their only King but the people stood by their demands. Even though this demand was not pleasing to God, God commanded Samuel to anoint Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin, as their king. Saul reigned for a short time only and God rejected Saul because of his impudence and disobedience and then commanded Samuel to anoint Jesse's son David as king in Saul's place. Before his death, Samuel gathered the entire people and bid them farewell. When Samuel died all of Israel mourned for him and they buried him honorably in his house at Ramatha.