

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

187 Justin Lane Bluefield, WV 24701

www.stmarysbluefield.org---email: [fathermark677@yahoo.com](mailto:fathermark677@yahoo.com)

[www.ACROD.org](http://www.ACROD.org) YouTube: ACRODDIOCESE and ACROD Facebook

Rev. Mark Tyson, Pastor

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

*Sunday January 1, 2017*

**Feasts:** The Circumcision in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Saints:** Martyr Theodotus, by the sword; Martyr Basil of Ancyra (362); Saint Gregory of Nazianzus the Elder, bishop and father of Saint Gregory the Theologian (374); Saint Emilia, (mother of Sts. Basil the Great, Macrina the Younger (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (January 10), Naucratus (June 8), Peter of Sebaste (January 9), and Theosebia the Deaconess (January 10)) (375); Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379); Saint Theodosius of Tryglia, Abbot; Hieromartyr Concordius of Spoleto (ca. 175); Thirty soldier-martyrs in Rome, under Diocletian (ca.304); Martyr Telemachos (Almachius), killed by gladiators in the Roman amphitheatre (404); Saint Basil, Bishop of Aix en Provence (ca. 475); Saint Eugendus, fourth Abbot of Condat Abbey in the Jura Mountains (510); Saint Fanchea of Killeany (Fanchea of Rossory), sister of St Enda of Aran (ca. 520); Saint Fulgentius of Ruspe, Bishop of Ruspe in North Africa (533); Saint Justin of Chieti, bishop of Chieti, Italy (ca. 540); Saint Felix of Bourges, Bishop of Bourges (ca. 580); Saint Connat (Comnatan), Abbess of Kildare Abbey in Ireland (ca. 590); Saint Maclrhys, a saint on Bardsey Island in Wales (6th c.); Saint Clarus, Abbot of St. Marcellus Monastery in Vienne, Gaul (ca. 660); Saint Cúan (Mochua, Moncan), Irish abbot, founder of many churches and monasteries in Ireland, (752); Saint Peter of Atroa (*Peter the Standard-Bearer*), Abbot, opponent of iconoclasm (837) (see also [January 3 - East]); Saint William of Dijon (William of Volpiano), Italian monastic reformer and architect (1031); Saint Peter Mogila, Metropolitan of Kyiv, Halych and all Rus', Archimandrite of the Kyivan Caves Lavra (1646) (*see also December 31*); New Martyr Peter of Tripolis in the Peloponnesus, at Temisi in Asia Minor (1776); Saint Athanasius (Volkhovsky), Bishop of Mohyliv, Wonderworker of Poltava (1801); New Hieromartyr Jeremiah (1918); New Hieromartyrs Platon (Kulbush), Bishop of Tallinn (Revel), Estonia, and with him Protopresbyters Michael (Blaive) and Nicholas (Bezhanitsky) (1919); New Hieromartyrs Alexander (Trapitsyn), Archbishop of Samara, and with him priests: John (Smirnov), Alexander (Ivanov), Alexander (Organov), John (Suldin), Trophimus (Miachin), Viacheslav, Basil and James (1938).

*Services for the week of January 1*

Wednesday, January 4: 7:00 pm Royal Hours of Theophany

Thursday, January 5: 9:00 am Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

5:00 pm: Theophany Holy Night Supper ///6:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of the Theophany

Friday, January 6: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Waters on the Feast of the Theophany.  
(Chrismation of Kerry Michael Bailey)

THERE WILL BE NO LITURGY OR VESPERS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

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## 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 25: \$3149.00

**FAST FREE DAYS CONTINUE** until this Thursday, the Eve of Theophany.

**PLEASE NOTE** the many services offered for the Baptism of the Lord. This is a Great Feast which demands our full attention. Please attend as many of the services as you are able to. God bless your efforts!

**HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN** on Monday, January 9. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like your home to be blessed.

### THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

The eighth day following His birth, the Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. On this occasion, He was given the name Jesus, which the Archangel Gabriel announced to the All-Holy Virgin Mary. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. In fulfilling the written Law, He replaced it with Baptism in His Holy Church as was proclaimed by the Apostle Paul: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Galatians 6:15). (In the cycle of the liturgical calendar of the Church, this Feast of the Lord's Circumcision has neither a Forefeast nor an Antefeast).

### SAINT BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan along with Euvlios his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.