

**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 July 2, 2017

The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae; Saint Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem; Saint Photius, Metropolitan of Kiev; Saint Juvenal, Protomartyr of America and Alaska (see also September 24 and December 12); Saint Stephen the Great of Romania; Saint Monegunda of Chartres (Gaul); Saint Oudoceos, Bishop of Llandaff; Saint Swithun, Bishop of Winchester; Martyr Kointos of Phrygia; new-martyrs of Samothrace; repose of Saint Job, first Patriarch of Moscow (see also April 5 and June 19); repose of Elder Zachariah of Moscow

Services for the week of July 2

Monday, July 3: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the 40th day commemoration of +Mark Ellison

Saturday, July 8: 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!

WE BID A BITTERSWEET FAREWELL to Fr. Elias, Matushka Mary and Baby Inez who are leaving our area today for their move to Montgomery, Alabama. We warmly welcome their family members who are with them to help them in their move. Dear Crowders...Please know that you are very much loved and will be very much missed amongst us! May God go with you and may we always cherish a warm and joyful friendship.

OFFERINGS: June 25: \$1191.70

PLEASE REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who have been in the hospital last week. Pray for their well-being and that of their families. May God bless them all!

HOMILY

About the trial of our faith

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearance of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

Brethren, our faith is tried more often than is the reed rocked by the winds. Trials are like the winds: a weak faith they will uproot and a strong faith will be strengthened even more. Trials are also like the flame in which straw is burned and gold is purified.

Man's intellectual pursuits and suppositions also try our faith. These are very strong and bitter winds. But we can overcome them if we are willing to adhere to the words of God and if, in opposition to those intellectual pursuits, we are able to emphasize the teachings of the Faith of Christ.

Our faith is further tried by fear and shame: fear of men who persecute the Faith and shame of men who arrogantly despise the Faith. These also are strong winds which we must resist if we wish to remain alive. How will we resist them? By the fear of God which should always be greater in our soul than the fear of men and of shame before the apostles, saints and martyrs who were not ashamed of their faith before emperors, princes and sages of this world.

Our faith is further tried by suffering and misery. This is the fire in which our faith either has to be burned like straw or to be tempered as pure gold. We will resist these trials if we would but remember Christ crucified on the Cross for us and so many thousands of martyrs for the Faith who, in their patience, conquered all and emerged from the flames as gold and who for centuries glow among the angels and among men.

Our faith is also tried by death, the death of our relatives and friends and the death of mankind in general. This is the bitter fire in which the faith of many have been burned. Is death the end of everything? It is not, but rather believe that it is the beginning of everything; it is the beginning of a new and just life. Believe in the Resurrection of Christ, believe in life beyond the grave and believe in the general resurrection and the Dreadful Judgment.

O Good Lord, strengthen the faith in us and have mercy on us.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

