

**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 July 23 2017*

Synaxis of the saints of Smolensk; Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia; Hieromartyr Apollinarios and Vitalios, Bishops of Ravenna; Righteous Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel; New-Martyr Nectarius (Trezvinsky), Bishop of Yaransk; Hieromartyr Apollonios; 250 killed by Bulgarians during the reign of Emperor Nicephorus; eight martyrs of Carthage; Saint Anna of Constantinople; Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope; Prophet Ezekiel (see also July 21); Righteous Pelagia of Tinos; Saint Anna of Levkadio; translation of the relics of Saint Herman (Germanus), Archbishop of Kazan; commemoration of the miraculous appearance of the Theotokos at Pochaev, which saved the monastery from the assault of the Tatars and Turks (1675); Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "The Joy of All Who Sorrow (with coins);" in Petersburg; Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos

*Services for the week of July 23*

Thursday, July 27: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Great Martyr Panteleimon

Saturday, July 29: 6:00 pm Great Vespers

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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!

**OFFERINGS:** July 16: \$1016.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER** Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who have been receiving difficult treatments lately. Pray for their well-being and that of their families. May God bless them all!

**THIS THURSDAY** marks the feast day of the Holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon. We will celebrate his feast with solemnity and will remember all of our sick brothers and sisters before his icon and holy relics which Metropolitan Nicholas of blessed memory brought to our parish. Please consider coming to light a candle before the saint, asking for one's own healing or for that of another. Through Christ, St. Panteleimon is a wondrous healer.

## HOMILY

### About waterless wells

*"These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever" (2 Peter 2:17).*

The apostle calls impure men "wells without water" those, "that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (2 Peter 2:10). "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not" (2 Peter 2:12). O "wells without water," which are adorned on all sides but you do not give water why are you then called wells when nothing comes out of you except thirst? O clouds and mist why do you bristle, as though you will flood the entire world, when there is not even one drop of water in you and when a breath of the Spirit of God will destroy and disperse you into nothing at that awesome hour? You are not concerned about purity, that is why you roll around in bodily impurity; neither are you concerned about order, that is why you detest authority; neither are you concerned about saving face [reputation], that is why you are presumptuous [self-willed]; neither are you concerned about knowing the truth, that is why you blaspheme that which you have not made any effort to understand. "The mist of darkness is reserved forever" for you. That is not God's will that is your will. God did not ordain that road, you yourself chose it. God is just and He will not commit a sin but will render to him according to his sin, and according to his unrepentant heart.

Brethren, what are physical desires except "wells without water" and dry clouds and mist? What type of fruit sprouts and blossoms from them except thistles and thorns, which do not require rain? Men with their physical desires are equal to their physical desires and they are blind because of these desires and will be judged according to them.

O Lord, Creator of our souls and bodies, give us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may preserve our body and soul in purity and, in the day of judgment, may present both in purity to You, our Creator.

**To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.**