

**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 June 4, 2017

PENTECOST SUNDAY THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Saint Metrophanes, first Patriarch of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Astius, Bishop of Dyrrachium in Macedonia; Martyr Concordius of Spoleto; Martyrs Frontasius, Severinus, Severian, and Silanus of Gaul; Saint Zosimas of Cilicia, Bishop of Babylon in Egypt; Venerable Methodius, Abbot of Peshnosa, disciple of Saint Sergius of Radonezh; Saint Sophia of Thrace; Saint John, Abbot of Monagria near Cyzicus; Saint Alonius of Scete in Egypt; Saints Mary and Martha, sisters of Saint Lazarus; Saints Eleazar and Nazarius, Wonder-workers of Olonets; New-Martyrs Archbishops Andronicus of Perm and Basil of Chernigov, and those with them; Hieromartyrs Joannicius and George of Serbia; Saint Petroc, Abbot of Bodmin; Saint Edfrith, Bishop of Lindisfarne; Saint Breaca, virgin in Cornwall; repose of righteous sisters Vera and Lyubov, foundresses of Shamordino Convent of Elder Ambrose of Optina

Services for the week of June 4

Monday, June 5: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Day of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, June 10: 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Sunday of All Saints

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: May 28: \$976.00

PLEASE REMEMBER: Janet Mikel and Martha Smith. May God place His hand of blessing on them both!

ALTAR SOCIETY YARD SALE has been rescheduled for June 17. Please see Makrina Wellons for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS to Christina and Christopher Mounzer who graduated from Graham High School recently. They are both going to Virginia Tech. May God bless their future endeavors!

FATHER MARK AND PANI LISA would like to thank the parish for the lovely cake last Sunday in honor of their anniversary. May God bless all of you and reward your kindness.

HOMILY

About trust in the Lord and not in your own understanding

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; on your own understanding rely not" [Proverbs 3:5].

If all the mountains would move toward you, would you be able to push them back with your hands? You could not. If darkness after darkness of all the mysteries in the heavens and on the earth rushed to the small taper of your understanding would you, with your understanding, be able to illuminate the darkness? Even less! Do not rely on your understanding for, from the perishable matter which you call intellect, a greater portion of it is nothing more than dead ashes. O man, do not rely on your understanding for it is a road over which a mob rushes a hungry, thirsty, motley and curious mob of sensual impressions.

O man, trust in the Lord with all your heart. In Him is understanding without end and all-discerning. The Lord says: "I am understanding; mine is strength" ([Proverbs 8:14](#)). He looks on the paths on which your blood flows and all the crossroads on which your thoughts wander. With compassion and love He offers Himself to you as a leader and you rely on your darkened and perishable understanding. Where was your understanding before your birth? Where was your understanding when your body was taking form, when your heart began to beat and flow with blood, when your eyes began to open and when your voice began to flow from your throat? Whose understanding was all this while your mind was still sleeping as charcoal in a coal mine? Even when your understanding awoke, can you enumerate all the illusions which it has delivered to you, all the lies in which it has entangled you, all the dangers which it did not foresee? O my brother, trust only in the Lord with all your heart! Until now, He has rescued you numerous times from your own understanding, from illusions and its lies and from danger in which it has pushed you. A blind man is compared to the man who can see, so is your understanding compared to the understanding of God. O blind one, trust in the Leader. O brother, trust only in the Lord with all your heart.

O Lord, All-seeing, Eternal and Infallible Understanding, deeper than the universe and more radiant than the sun, deliver us, even now from the errors of our understanding.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.