

**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 November 26, 2017*

Repose of Saint Innocent, first Bishop of Irkutsk; Saint Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis; Saint James the Solitary of Syria; Saint Nikon Metanoieite ("preacher of repentance"); New-Martyr George of Chios; Saint Stylianos of Paphlagonia, monk; Saint Silas, Bishop of Persidos; Saints Athanasius the "Iron Staff" and Theodosius of Cherepovets, disciples of St. Sergius of Radonezh (see September 25); Saint Akakios of Sinai who is mentioned in *The Ladder*; dedication of the church of St. George the Great-martyr at Kiev

*Services for the week of November 26*

Thursday, November 30: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy—Feast of the Holy First Called Apostle, Andrew

Saturday, December 2: 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:** November 5:\$1924.00 November 19:\$

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

**ST. NICHOLAS DINNER** will be held THIS SUNDAY, December 3. There are two seatings; one at 4:00 pm and the other at 6:30 pm. Full details can be found on the flyers in the church hall or on the parish website. Please support this excellent fund raiser for our church!

**TAKE A LOOK** at the new library entrance in our church hall. It is now a beautiful arched doorway which will be finished as soon as possible. We plan to have a very inviting area with books and icons for our parishioners and guests to browse. There's more on the parish website!

**PRAYERS FOR PEACE** are on our diocesan ACROD website. Please take up the Nativity Fast Prayer challenge with your family and ask the Lord to send his grace to our world for an end to conflict in our personal lives and also between nations.

**COMING UP** are the Feasts of Sts. Barbara (December 4), Nicholas (December 6) and Ambrose (December 7). It will be a week of festive liturgies!

## REFLECTION

Many learned pagans entered the Church of Christ and were baptized precisely because the Church preached immortal life as a proven fact and not as a speculation of human reason. St. Clement of Rome had studied all of Greek philosophy, yet his soul remained unsatisfied and empty. As a young man of twenty-four, he desired to know with all his soul if there were another, better life than this. Philosophy gave him only the thoughts of various men, but no real proof. He mourned for his lost parents and brothers and was tormented constantly by not knowing if he would be able to see them in some other life. The All-seeing God directed his footsteps and he met a man who spoke to him of Christians, and of their belief in life beyond the grave. This so stirred the young Clement that he immediately moved from Rome to Judea so that there, in the cradle of the Christian Faith itself, he might come to uncontestable knowledge regarding life beyond the grave. When he heard the preaching of the Apostle Peter, based entirely on Christ's Resurrection from the dead, Clement despised the conjectures of philosophy and sincerely adopted the Christian Faith. He was baptized, and dedicated himself totally to the service of the Church of God. As it was then, so it is today—he who has a strong faith in the resurrected Christ, and a clear knowledge of life beyond death and judgment, easily decides to pay the price for entry into that life; that is, the fulfilling of all God's commandments.

## HOMILY

**on the purpose of the apportionment of gifts, ministries and callings**

... *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ* (Ephesians 4:12).

This is why the Holy Spirit apportioned the gifts, and made some apostles, others prophets, others evangelists, and others pastors and teachers: that *the saints*, the faithful Christians, become perfected. As in a household, honor and service are apportioned, and there is honor and service appropriate to parents, honor and service appropriate to adult sons and daughters, and honor and service appropriate to young children and servants—yet all serve together for the benefit of one another; so it is in God's house, the Holy Church: with every honor is a corresponding service, and the services of each are beneficial to all. Thus *the body of Christ*, God's Holy Church, is gradually and wisely built. Each of the faithful, assisted by the others, grows and develops as a member of this body; grows and develops in holiness and purity, and in a corresponding measure and proportion to the whole great body. The whole body, from the beginning to the end of time—especially from the Incarnation of God the Word on earth until the Dread Judgment—is the Holy Church of God. The body is worthy of immortality, the building is worthy of God. The eye of man cannot see it from end to end, nor can the mind of man comprehend it. The building is of chosen materials: living stones, eyes and hearts, without roughness or ugliness, without corruption or change. Everything is in its place, everything is most beautiful in its entirety and in its parts. Here, brethren, is the goal of our journey! Here is the meaning of our burning in the furnace of suffering! Here is our life, better than all our plans and lovelier than all our desires. O Lord Jesus, our man-loving Lord, do not cast us away as inferior material, but polish us and build us into Thine immortal body.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

