

**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 October 1, 2017*

The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, at the Blachernae church in Constantinople (911); **Saints:** Saint Ananias of Damascus, one of the Seventy Apostles and first Bishop of Damascus (1st c.); Martyr Dominus of Thessalonica (4th c.); Holy Emperor Mirian III of Iberia and Empress Nana of Mtskheta, Georgia, Equals-to-the-Apostles, St. Abiathar of Mtskheta, and St. Sidonia, disciple of St. Nina (4th c.); Venerable Romanos the Melodist, "Sweet-singer" (ca.556); Monk-Martyrs Michael, Abbot of Zovia Monastery near Sebaste, and 36 fathers with him (ca.790); Saint Melchizedek, Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia (ca.1030); Saint Piatius of Tournai, who enlightened the areas around Tournai in Belgium and Chartres in France (ca.286); Martyrs Verissimus, Maxima and Julia, in Portugal under Diocletian (ca.302); Martyrs Aretas, and five-hundred-and-four other martyrs, at Rome; Saint Aladius (Albaud), Bishop of Toul in France. (ca.520); Saint Bavo of Ghent, penitent and hermit, patron of Haarlem in the Netherlands (659); Saint Dodo, Abbot of Wallers-en-Faigne (750); Saint Fidharleus, restorer of the monastery of Rathin in Ireland (762); Martyr-prince Mylor of Brittany (Melorius); Saint Virila, Abbot of the Monastery of the Saviour in Leyre in Spain (ca. 1000); Saint Gregory the Singer of the Great Lavra of Mount Athos (Gregory Domesticus) (1355); Saint John Koukouzelis the Hymnographer of the Great Lavra on Mount Athos (1360); Venerable Sabbas, Abbot of Visheva in Novgorod, the Wonderworker (1461); Saint Domna Slipchenko, Fool-for-Christ, native of Poltava (1872); New Hieromartyr Alexis, priest (1918); New Hieromartyr Michael (Vologodsky), priest of Krasnoyarsk (1920); New Hieromartyr George (Archangelsky), priest (1937); New Hieromartyrs Alexander, Gregory, Nicholas, priests (1937); Martyr John (1937); New Hieromartyr Archpriest Ismael (Rozhdestvensky) of Strelna (St. Petersburg) (1938); New Hieromartyr Theodore (1940); **Other Commemorations:** Commemoration of the Apparition of the Pillar with the Robe of the Lord at Mtskheta, Georgia (ca.330); Translation of the relics of Saint Remigios of Rheims, Apostle to the Franks (533); Synaxis of the of the Most-Holy Theotokos Gorgoepikoos ("She who is quick to hear"), at the Dochiariou monastery on Mount Athos (1664); Repose of Hiero-schemamonk Euthemius of Valaam (1829); **Icons:** Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "Pokrov" (Pskov-Protection Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos) (1581); Icon of the Theotokos of Brayiliv-Pochaiv (Brailovska) at Brayiliv near Vinnitsa; Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos Lublin (Liublinsk); Transfer of the Terebovlya Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God from Terebovlya to Lvov (1672); Icon of the Mother of God of Gerbovets (Herbovetska) (1790, 1859); Icon of the Mother of God of Kasperov (Kasperivska), defended the city of Odessa during the Crimean War (1853-1855); Icon of the Mother of God of Barsk (Barska) (1887).

*Services for the week of October 1*

Saturday, October 7: 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:** September 24: \$747.00

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

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER** Joan Semonco who is suffering from pneumonia at her home. May God grant her a speedy recovery!

### The Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos

From time immemorial, the Church has celebrated the Most-holy Theotokos as the patroness and protectress of the Christian people, who, by her intercessory prayers, implores God's mercy for us sinners. The help of the Most-holy Mother of God has been clearly shown numerous times, to individuals and to nations, in peace and in war, in monastic deserts and in densely populated cities. The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today confirms the Theotokos' consistent protection of Christian people. On October 1, 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, there was an All-night Vigil in the Blachernae Church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was full of people. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ was standing in the rear of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Most-holy Theotokos appeared above the people, holding her omophorion outstretched as a protective covering for the faithful. She was clothed in gold-encrusted purple, and shone with an ineffable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins. St. Andrew said to Blessed Epiphanius: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady of all praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "I see, Father, and am struck with amazement!" The Feast of the Protection was instituted to commemorate this event, and to remind us that we can prayerfully receive the unceasing protection of the Most-holy Theotokos in any time of difficulty.