

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church  
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

187 Justin Lane Bluefield, WV 24701

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Rev. Mark Tyson, Pastor

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*Sunday September 10, 2017*

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos; Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora at Nicomedia; Martyr Barypsabas in Dalmatia; Saints Peter and Paul, Bishops of Nicaea; Saint Pulcheria the Empress; synaxis of the Holy Apostles Apelles, Lucius, and Clement of the Seventy; Saint Ioasaph, (Prince Andrew) monk of Kubensk (Vologda); Saint Paul the Obedient of the Kiev Caves; Saint Cassian, Abbot of Spaso-Kamenny and Cyril of White Lake Monasteries; Saint Salvius, Bishop of Albi (Gaul); Saint Frithestan, Bishop of Winchester; Martyr Ia; Saint Finian, Abbot of Moville; translation of the relics of Saint Egwin, Bishop of Worcester; translation of the relics of Saint Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester

*Services for the week of September 10*

Wednesday, September 13: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Thursday, September 14: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Saturday, September 16: 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:** August 27: \$591.00

**PLEASE PRAY** for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. More storms are coming. The IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is collecting funds for relief to the suffering. We will conduct a collection NEXT SUNDAY to be able to send our help as quickly as we can. Please give generously.

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

**CHURCH WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL** is coming up on September 23 from 11am-4pm. Please volunteer your help in any way you can. See Fr. Mark or any of the many people who are helping us to be able to lend a hand.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** will be held following Divine Liturgy TODAY, September 10. Please make every effort to attend the Liturgy and gather as a family to hear about the state of our parish.

### The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.