

**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

Cell: (304) 888-4576 Farm: (276) 988-3921

Sunday April 15, 2018

THOMAS SUNDAY

Saints Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus, Apostles of the Seventy (see also April 14); Martyr Sabbas the Goth of Walachia; Martyrs Vasilissa and Anastasia of Rome, disciples of Apostles Peter and Paul; Saint Mstislav-Theodore, Prince of Kiev; Martyr Suchias and his company in Armenia; Saint Paternos, Bishop of Llandbadarn Fawr; Saint Ruadhan, Abbot and Bishop; Saint Leonidas, Bishop of Athens; Martyrs Theodore, presbyter, and Pausilippus; Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia (see also April 13); New-martyr Michael of Smyrna (see also April 16); the nine monk-martyrs of Corinth (see also April 16); the Life-giving Fount of the Theotokos; repose of Blessed Daniel of Siberia and Schema-hieromonk Michael, the last Elder of Valaam

Services for the week of April 15

There are no services this week until Sunday, April 22.

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!

A BLESSED FEAST OF FEASTS TO ALL! Fr. Mark and family wish all of our parishioners and guests a Blessed and Radiant Pascha! May our lives be filled with His unfading light!

OFFERINGS: April 8 (Pascha): \$4,057.00

FR. MARK will be at the Diocesan Clergy Retreat from Tuesday (4/17) until Saturday, (4/21). For this reason, there are no services this week.

HOMILY

About how we will resemble Him Whom we love

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

Until now, we were slaves and now we are the children of God. We were the slaves of evil and now we are the servants of good; the supreme good in heaven and on earth. We were slaves to all of that which is lower and worse than man and now, we will serve the All-Highest and the All-Good. We were squashed by darkness and now, we will labor in the light. Until now, the devil, sin and death held us in continual fear and now, we will live close to God in freedom and joy.

Now, when now? Now, when the Lord appeared on earth in the flesh, when He gave us the knowledge of light, freedom and life; when He gloriously resurrected and manifested Himself in His glorified body; when He fulfilled all the prophecies of the prophets and all of His promises. Now we, too, are the children of God: "The sons of light and the heirs of the Kingdom."

"We shall be like Him." Truly, this has not yet materialized but He has manifested Himself and, for now, that is sufficient. He Himself showed how beautiful man is in the resurrection and we know that we will also be the same as He. The Apostle John says: "We know that we shall be like Him." He does not say we suspect or it has been told to us but he does say: "We know that we shall be like Him." For He did not resurrect for His sake, but for our sake. He did not resurrect from the grave, only to show His power to the dead who are without hope, but to assure the dead that they, too, will live again and to show them how they will be when they become enlivened. Neither did the apostles write: "We know," because of their vanity before the ignorant, but because of brotherly love toward man, that all men may know the same and "that we may also know."

O resurrected Lord, confirm in us also this saving knowledge through the prayers of Your Holy Apostles.