

**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 22, 2018

Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women

Saint Theodore the Sykeote, Bishop of Anastasiopolis; Saint Vitalis, monk of Gaza; Apostles Nathaniel, Luke, and Clement; Martyr Epipodius of Lyons; Martyr Nearchus; Hieromartyr Sava (Trlajic) of Serbia; Hieromartyr Platon the New of Banja Luka; translation of the relics of Saint Vsevolod (in holy baptism Gabriel), prince of Pskov; repose of Blessed Fool-for-Christ Athanasius Andreyevich of Orel

Services for the week of April 22

Monday, April 23: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. George
Saturday, April 28: 10:00 am Grave Blessing---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: April 15:\$1039.00

PLEASE REMEMBER the soul of the departed servant of God, +Ernest Alexis Chizmar, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, April 14, 2017. May his memory be eternal!

FOUR BOTTLES OF COMMUNION WINE were donated by Mrs. Eleanor Dussling of Pittsburgh, PA in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings which have filled her life.

HOMILY

About the power of God in the weakness of men

"For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

There are no contradictions in Holy Scripture and even in these words there are no contradictions even though they sound like it. The physical is governed by sound and the spiritual by thought. For physical man, there are contradictions everywhere for he is afraid of obstacles and flees from a shadow if this shadow seems to be an obstacle for him. The spiritual man is like a knight who likes to overcome obstacles. For the spiritual man, hidden in these words of Scripture, is the entire teaching about salvation.

"For when I am weak, then I am strong." That is, when I am cognizant of my nothingness and the omnipotence of God, then I am strong. When I know that I, of myself alone, cannot do any good neither for myself nor for others and when I totally entrust myself in the power and mercy of God, then I am strong. When I sense that I am as a drowning person in this world and that I am not in the position to grab on to the extended hand of God, to hold on to it by my own strength, rather cry out to God that He with His hand grab hold of my hand and pull me out of the depths of sinful abyss, then I am strong. When I see that I am weak and that I am a hollow reed amidst the tempest of winds and floods; a reed which God is able to fill with His Almighty Grace and when I pray with faith for God's Grace, then I am strong.

O, my weak brethren, let us entrust ourselves to the power of God that we, in our nothingness, may be strong. Relying on man you are weak but relying on God you are strong. Adhere to God and all the power of God will be with you. Confess your weaknesses before God and God will send you His All-powerful Grace. This is confirmed for you by the apostle through his example and through his experience: "For when I am weak, then I am strong." In truth there is no contradiction in the Holy Scripture. Physical man speaks about contradiction in terms of the sound of the word, but spiritual man enters into the meaning and shatters the illusion of contradiction through experience.

O resurrected Lord, have mercy on our weakness and fill us with Your Omnipotent Grace.