

**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

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

*Sunday March 18, 2018*

**SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER**

The 10,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (*Myriads of Holy Martyrs*), by the sword; Martyrs Trophimus and Eucarpion, soldiers, at Nicomedia, and those with them (300); Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Patriarch of Jerusalem (386); Venerable Ananias the Wonderworker (*Aninas of the Euphrates*), Hieromonk; Saint Daniel, monk of Egypt (6th c.); Saints Narcissus and Felix, a Bishop and his Deacon honoured as martyrs in Gerona, Catalonia, Spain (ca.307); Saint Tetricus, Bishop of Langres in Gaul (572); Saint Frediano of Ireland (*Frigidanus, Frigidianus*), prince and hermit, and Bishop of Lucca (588); Saint Egbert of Ripon, monk (729); Saint Edward the Martyr, King of England (978); Saint Cyril of Astrakhan (1576); New Hieromartyr Demetrius, Priest (1938); Virgin-martyr Natalia (1938); Saint Maria (Skobtsova)(*Elizabeth Pilenko*), nun, who suffered at Ravensbrück concentration camp (1945); **Other Commemorations:** Repose of Abbot Mark of Optina Monastery (1909); Repose of St. Nicholas of Zhicha, at Libertyville, Illinois (1956).

*Services for the week of March 18*

Tuesday, March 20: 7:00 Instructions in Orthodoxy

Wednesday, March 21: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

7:00 pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 23: 7:00 pm Akathist to the Mother of God

Saturday, March 24: 6:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of the Annunciation

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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!

**PASCHAL FLOWERS** if you would like to donate for them, please see Joyce Peters or Sophia Rantis.

**HOLY CONFESSION** during the Great Fast is a REQUIREMENT in our diocese. If you wish to be considered an Orthodox Christian "in good standing" of our diocese, you MUST make arrangements to confess at least ONCE during this sacred season.

**OFFERINGS:** March 11: \$635.00

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER** Randy (John) Bailey, Janet Mikel and Martha Smith as well as Marin Sandu (Dr. Alina's stepfather) who are suffering from serious illness. Fr. John Zboyovski who serves in North Carolina and is known by many in our parish is still recovering from a stroke. Please remember him as well. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

## HOMILY

**About the King who does not wish to defend Himself with an army**

"Do you think that I cannot call upon My Father and He will not provide Me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels" (St. Matthew 26:53).

Thus spoke the Lord to the disciple who drew the sword to defend his Teacher in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is obvious from these words that the Lord could have defended Himself, if He wanted to, not only from Judas and his company of guards, but also from Pilate and the leaders of the Jews. For the might of one angel is greater than the greatest army of men, much less the might of twelve legions of angels.

The Lord did not want to seek this help from the Father. In His prayer in Gethsemane, He said to His Father, "Let Your will be done" (St. Matthew 26:42). With that, He immediately knew the Will of the Father and that it was necessary that He be given over to suffering. He was in agreement with the Will of His Father and set out on the path of suffering. It was necessary to allow the background to be portrayed gloomier in order that the resurrection would be brighter. It was necessary to allow evil to compete as much as it could so that, afterwards, it would explode and disintegrate into nothing. It was necessary to allow evil to cry aloud so that, soon after, it would become speechless before the miraculous resurrection. It was necessary that all the wicked deeds of men against God be manifested so that they would be able to see and appraise the love and mercy of God toward mankind. The angels of God were not sent to defend Christ from the Jews; rather, the angels of God were sent, after three days, to announce the holy resurrection of Christ.

O Lord, All-Powerful and All-Merciful, have mercy on us and save us!

