

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

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Sunday May 6, 2018

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Righteous Job the Long-suffering; Martyrs Danax, Mesirus (Mesiurs), and Therin; Martyrs Demetrius and Donatus; Saints Mamas, Pachomius, and Hilarion, monks; Martyrs Barbarus the Soldier (Barbaruldier), Bacchus, Callimachus, and Dionysius, in Morea (362); Martyr Barbarus the former robber in Thessaly (9th c.); Saint Lucius of Cyrene (1st c.) Martyrs Heliodorus and Venustus and seventy-five others in Africa (284–305); Saint Benedicta, virgin, mystic and nun, in Rome (6th c.); Saint Edbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne (698); Saint Petronax of Monte Cassino (ca.747); Saint Vladimir II Monomakh (Volodymyr Monomakh), Sovereign of Kievan Rus' (1125); Venerable Micah (Micheas), disciple of the Saint Sergius of Radonezh (1385); Venerable Sinaites of Serbia (from Ravanica) (14th c.); Romilus of Ravanica, Romanus of Djunisa (Romanos of Ravanica), Sisoes of Sinai and Sisojevac, Martyrius of Rukumije, Gregory of Gornjak, Zosimas of Tuman, and Gregory of Sinai (Mt. Athos); Saint Seraphim of Dombu (Seraphim of Livadeia) (1602); Saint Job of Pochaev, Abbot and Wonder-worker of Pochaev Lavra (1651) (see also October 28 and August 28); Blessed Theophylact Lopatinsky, Archbishop of Tver, Defender of Orthodoxy (1741); Saint Sophia, the ascetic of Kleisoura (1974) **Other Commemorations:** Translation of the relics (1238) of Saint Sava, first Archbishop of Serbia (1235); Translation of the relics(1675) of Saint Pachomius of Nerekhta (1384); Birthday of Royal Martyr Tsar Nicholas II.

Services for the week of May 6

Saturday, May 12: 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 29:\$901.00

TODAY is the anniversary (18 years) of the first Divine Liturgy served in our church. +Metropolitan Nicholas was the consecrating bishop with many diocesan clergy. There are two photo albums in the hall along with programs and liturgical guides which can help us take a walk down “memory lane.” Many of those who played an instrumental role in the construction of our church and its early life here in Bluefield are now asleep in the Lord. May their memory be eternal! May they stand at the

Judgment with a small St. Mary's in their hands as a holy and pure offering to God! May we carry out the commandment of the Lord to open the doors to all who would enter and to love them as He would. Christ is Risen!

HOMILY

About the power that God gave to the words of the prophets

"Behold, I made My words in your mouth, a fire. And this people is the wood that it shall devour!" (Jeremiah 5:14).

You see brethren, that the effect of the word of God is different according to different people. The word of God is like fire, in whom the righteous one rejoices, as one frozen in the cold of this world; and the word of God is like fire which burns the unrighteous one whom this material world has overly warmed. The experienced spiritual fathers have left us proof that only the Name of Jesus brings power, joy and refreshment to the faithful - and this Name consumes evil spirits as a living fire. That is the way with every word of God. With some it creates comfort, with others irritation, with some it quiets anger, with others it increases anger, with some it provokes respect with fear and with others scorn. To the healthy it is honey; to the unhealthy it is the honey of wormwood.

But, why should the people be as wood which will be consumed? For, are the people to be blamed if the godless elders and false prophets lead them astray? The people are not to blame to such a degree as their elders and false prophets but nevertheless they are to blame to a certain extent. For God also gave the people to know the right path through conscience and through the preaching of God's word and the people should not blindly follow their blind leaders when they lead them on the false paths and distance them from God and God's law. Brethren, God is Just and He knows the measure of everyone's faults, and He will not permit the illiterate and the least to suffer as much as the literate and the greatest.

O All-seeing God, save us that we neither be blind leaders not blind followers. Strengthen our hearts that, as leaders and as followers, we will always be Your servants and only Your servants.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

