

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

3717 Hwy 515 E, Blairsville GA 30512

706-745-6400

Fr. Juan Areiza, Pastor  
December 24-25, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Nativity of Our Lord

## Echoing Mary's Decision

The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. In a way, it is the ultimate "Whodunit?" that Mary expresses in her question "How can this be?" The mystery of salvation in Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for Paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is "yes."

We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means "solved." We may understand it a bit better due to Mary's "yes." We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But ultimately, it still remains a reality beyond our comprehension, a mystery to which we all must give our own "yes." Soon we will be singing "O come, let us adore him." May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary's "yes," continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us.

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### Mass Schedule **WORSHIP @ St. Francis of Assisi**

Sat/Sun: 4:30 PM / 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM 5p.

**Daily Mass:** Mon to Sat: 9:00 AM

**Adoration:** Mon to Fri: 9:45 – 12:00 PM

**Reconciliation:** Sat: 3:30-4:15 and app't.

### CONTACT US

OFFICE HOURS: 10-4:30 Mon-Thurs

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PHONE: 706-745-6400

BULLETIN: [bulletin@stfrancisblairsville.com](mailto:bulletin@stfrancisblairsville.com)

**Clergy** Rev. Juan Areiza, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Larry Casey, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Dietz, Deacon

Rev. Mr. John Paul McGuire, Deacon

Rev. Mr. John Barone, Deacon



## The Coming Dawn

Preparing for Christmas has been tense. Extra hours at work. Standing in line at shops. Spending more time with family and friends.

Some homes around the world deal with much greater stress. Children are not unwrapping presents; they are hiding from abuse. Families are not preparing dinner; they are going hungry again. People are not attending church; they have lost their faith. Some sit in dark despair wonder if anyone will bring them light.

On Christmas Eve we celebrate our blessings, and we remember the sorrowful with our prayers, our gifts, and our time. It was for all of us that Jesus was born- for the richly blessed and the sadly stressed. On Christmas Eve we can see the bright vision of God's love. On this holy night Jesus is born as one like us. God has brightened every human life by taking on the form of one human life in Bethlehem long ago.

When we celebrate Christmas Eve, we announce the message of tomorrow's dawn. Many years ago Isaiah prophesied to a people who spent too many years in exile from their homes, deprived of gifted leaders, victimized by religious oppression. We join our voices with Isaiah's message: "I will not be silent. I will not be quiet, until vindication shines forth like the dawn and victory like a burning torch."

Let Christmas Even proclaim that Jesus brings light to the world! © Resource Publication 2008, Written by Paul Turner

## Mass Intentions

### Fourth Week of Advent Nativity of Our Lord

Dec. 24-30, 2017

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Advent Dec 23/24

(4 <sup>th</sup> Sun) 4:30p	†	Victoria & Steven Jienckle (Debi Spriggs)
(4 <sup>th</sup> Sun) 8:30a		People of St. Francis of Assisi
(4 <sup>th</sup> Sun) 11:00a		Don McConnell
(4 <sup>th</sup> Sun) 1:00p	†	Joanna McConnell
		Priest's Intention

#### Christmas Eve Dec 24

Vigil 4:30p	†	Tony Interrante (Pat Pierce)
Vigil 7:00p	†	Joanne Scoma (Burgess Family)

#### Christmas Day Dec 25

10:00 L Chris Lyon  
(Bill/Rosie Lyon)

#### Tues Dec 26

9:00 Thanksgiving to God  
(Stephanie Miller)

#### Wed Dec 27

9:00 L Kirksey Family  
(Kirksey Family)

#### Thu Dec 28

9:00 † Matthew Kozik  
(Donna Antonellis)

#### Fri Dec 29

9:00 † James Derflinger  
(Carrie Derflinger)

#### Sat Dec 30

9:00 † Jorge Rost  
(Shirley Rost)

4:30 L Veronica Freda  
(Debi Spriggs)



## Watch for Christ

**Look for Christ where there is love.** In the care of family members for one another; among friends; when you are compelled to greet a stranger or care for someone in need; in word and sacrament in the Mass; in the healing of Reconciliation.

**Look for Christ in quiet.** When your heart is filled with peace, especially when nothing can explain the calm you feel. When you find resolution in conflict; healing of body, mind, and spirit.

**Look for Christ during difficulty.** When simple things are hard; when life seems insurmountable; when your heart aches.

**Look for Christ in others.** Those who need care and those who give it. In the eyes of a friend who is in pain. In the lonely neighbor; the homeless person on the street; the sick and dying.

**Look for Christ in unexpected places.** When you least expect to experience God, remember, God is there. © Catholic Life and Faith, 2017

### Christmas Mass Schedule Mary Mother of God Schedule

#### Sunday, December 24, 2017

Children's Mass: 4:30 pm

Bilingual Mass: 7 pm

#### Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2017

Mass: 10 am

#### Mary the Mother of God, Jan 1, 2018

Mass: 9 am\*

No Vigil Mass Dec. 31, 2017

\*January 1, 2018, Feast of Mary, Mother of God is **NOT** a holy day of obligation this year.

## More



**Catholic Charities Atlanta** is the recipient of second collection donations on Christmas Day.

### What time is Midnight Mass?

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet, there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late! —James Field, ©

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**Parish Directory:** Fr. Juan: pastor@stfrancisblairsville.com • Office: office@stfrancisblairsville.com, finances@stfrancisblairsville.com • Joe: dre@stfrancisblairsville.com, Colleen: adultformation@stfrancisblairsville.com Marianne: music@stfrancisblairsville.com  
Mary: pastoralassistant@stfrancisblairsville.com  
FAX: 706.745.1468

## Parish Life

### Prayer List

#### The Sick:

- ♦Mary Jo Yates
  - ♦Joanna McConnell
  - ♦Raymond Bailey
  - ♦Donna Warren
  - ♦Lee Ann Wischmeyer
  - ♦Jaclyn Wright
  - ♦Frank Hoffman
  - ♦Mary Ann Shaputis
  - ♦Kim Davenport
  - ♦Lew Caputa
  - ♦Pam Collins
  - ♦Glen Santiago
  - ♦George Thompson
  - ♦Mike Kelly
  - ♦Mike Garza
  - †William Atkinson
- June Tyler (shoulder surgery)  
Cici Miller

### Thank You Parish of St. Francis of Assisi

*(From Dcn. John Barone & Ellen)*

Ellen and I wish to express our sincere gratitude for your very warm and gracious welcome into the parish. We were overwhelmed and deeply touched in heart and spirit! We especially thank Father Juan, Father Wise, Deacon Larry, Deacon Paul, and Deacon John Paul, for their blessings, friendship, and good wishes. May God continue to favor this wonderful Community of Faith with His grace and love!

Living Flame of  
the Sanctuary   
Light

burns this week in  
memory of  
**John DeLamater**  
by

**June Tyler**

## And Finally

### Parish Holiday Information

The parish office is closed from Dec 22, 2017 to Jan 1, 2018. This is by archdiocesan directive and much appreciated by the office staff.

**Eucharistic Adoration** will not be available during the normal time of 9:45 – noon while the parish office is closed. This is mainly due to priests and deacons not being on campus for benediction.

**Sacramental Emergencies** will be handled by Fr. Wise while Fr. Juan is on vacation. He may be reached at: 706-897-2962.

**Fr. Juan will return** to the parish on January 15, 2018 after his vacation in Colombia, South America with his family.

### Stewardship Report

Dec 17, 2017

#### First Collection:

**\$9147.00**

#### Door Collection

(St. Vincent de Paul)

**\$4724.00**

Next week: No second collection

Parish website:  
[www.stfrancisblairsville.com](http://www.stfrancisblairsville.com)  
Parish facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/sfablairsville](http://www.facebook.com/sfablairsville)

## Cuarto Domingo de Adviento La Natividad del Señor

### IMITAR LA DECISIÓN DE MARÍA



El ángel Gabriel hoy le presenta a María un misterio. La pregunta de María “¿Cómo podrá ser esto?” se parece a esas novelas de misterio “¿Quién tiene la culpa?” El misterio de salvación en Cristo no es un misterio que se pueda resolver, sino una realidad más allá de nuestro entendimiento en la cual nos decidimos a participar. En la liturgia de la Iglesia Oriental, todos esperan para ver si María participará en el misterio: Dios espera, Adán y Eva y todas las almas de los muertos que anhelan el Paraíso esperan, los ángeles esperan tener nuevos compañeros celestiales. Y hay gran regocijo cuando su decisión es un “sí”.

A nosotros se nos ofrecen opciones menos dramáticas, pero el misterio de nuestra salvación en Cristo de ningún modo queda “solucionado”. Puede que ahora lo entendamos un poco mejor gracias al “sí” de María. Puede que estemos un poco más cercanos a él mediante la pasión, muerte y resurrección de Jesucristo. Pero, en último término, sigue siendo una realidad más allá de nuestro entendimiento, un misterio al cual todos debemos dar nuestro propio “sí”. Ya pronto estaremos cantando “Venid y adoremos”. Que nuestra oración de Adviento, a imitación del “sí” de María, continúe para que podamos participar en el misterio de nuestra salvación en Jesucristo, Dios-con-nosotros. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

### Anuncios

**Emergencia Sacramental:** Si usted tiene alguna emergencia sacramental en la que se necesite la asistencia del sacerdote para la extremaunción (peligro de muerte) por favor comuníquese al 706-745-6400. Fr. Wise: 706-837-2962.