

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

3717 Hwy 515 E, Blairsville GA 30512 706-745-6400

Fr. Gaurav Shroff, Parish Administrator

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 8, 2018

A THORN IN THE FLESH

If you touch a thorn on a rose, you pull your hand right away. But when Saint Paul talked about “a thorn in the flesh,” he described something worse. He felt a constant pain, a thorn stuck there “to beat me, to keep me from being too elated.” No one knows what it was. An illness like shingles? Or something more psychological, such as an annoying coworker or threats from an enemy? Paul doesn’t say.

But he didn’t like it. “Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me.” If such an affliction tormented us, we’d probably not stop after three prayers. We’d pray constantly for relief. Why only three times? Perhaps because Paul got an answer to his prayers. It brought spiritual relief, but not physical relief. The Lord said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ It wasn’t the answer he wanted. But it was the answer he got.

The hardships we endure remind us of our frailty. We’d like to think we can handle any task, overcome any challenge. But sometimes we cannot. And no one can help. We are left with this stark realization: we are weak.

It is then that Christ can help. The grace of Christ sustains us in good times and in bad, but we only realize it when things go wrong. “When I am weak, then I am strong.” © *Resource Publications, 2008. Written by Paul Turner.*



FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

Mark’s Gospel account today is built on a double astonishment or amazement: the neighbors and family of Jesus are astonished that he taught in the synagogue with wisdom and worked powerful signs. Jesus, in turn, is amazed that they have no faith in him because they know his origins, not because of any fault with his teaching or ministry. As with many of Mark’s passages, we get a rather intimate glimpse here of the human part of Jesus’ two-fold nature. To reinforce his point, Mark tells of Jesus’ return to his native place, and further points out that he is in the midst of his own family members there. From the very people he expected the most, Jesus received the least. In the day of the Gospel’s writing, Mark was attempting to illustrate a lesson to the house of Israel: the God of the covenant expected the greatest faith from the house of Israel, but often received the least. This is a good source for reflection on our part, we who are Jesus’ followers today. For the wisdom of Christ to continue and for our lives to be seen as signs of his power, he must expect and be able to find great faith.

Mass/Sacraments: Sat: 4:30 p, Sun: 8:30 a, 11:00 a, 1:00 p Span. **Daily Mass:** Mon – Thu 9:00 a © J.S. Paluch Co
Adoration: Mon – Fri 9:45 a – 12, **Reconciliation:** Sat 3:30 – 4:15, or by appointment, **Baptism/Marriage:** Contact office, please.

Fr. Gaurav Shroff

Parish Office

Our Deacons

E: gshroff@archatl.com

office@stfrancisblairsville.com

Larry Casey, Paul Dietz, JP McGuire, John Barone

WEB: www.stfrancisblairsville.com

706.745.6400

facebook:www.facebook.com/sfablairsville

Mass Intentions this Week

July 8, 2018 – July 14, 2018

Sat	4:30 p	†	Bill & Mary Johnston <i>by Chas. & Linda Johnston</i>
Sun	8:30 a		People of St. Francis <i>by Fr. Gaurav Shroff</i>
Sun	11:00 a	†	Vera Grizio <i>by Grizio Family</i>
Sun	1:00 p	†	Art Schoenthaler <i>by Casey Family</i>
9a	Mon	†	Rita DeLorme <i>by Alan & Ursula MacDougal</i>
9a	Tue	†	Benedict Moraczewski <i>by Dorogi Family</i>
9a	Wed	†	Deceased Knights <i>by Knights of Columbus</i>
9a	Thu	†	Jerry Albers <i>by Dorothy Albers</i>
9a	Fri		Communion Service <i>No intention</i>
4:30 p	Sat	†	Tom Barron <i>Jo Ann Barron</i>

Living Flame of the Sanctuary Light

burns this week for the repose of the soul of



Dell O'Neill

requested by

Lew & Jean Caputa

First Collection

\$8483.00

Second Collection

\$1730.00

Peter's Pence

June 24, 2018



Next Week's Door Collection:

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thank you for your generosity!

Church Giving Online

<https://www.churchgiving.com/?pc=yrvrsi89>

Fr. Wise Named Pastor of St. Gerard Church, Ft. Oglethorpe GA

The Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways. Proof? Fr. Wise's brief history: ♦2003 Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi. ♦ 2010 Pastor of Our Lady of the Mount ♦ 2012 Retired in Atlanta. ♦ 2015 Back to St. Francis of Assisi, semi-retired. ♦ 2018 Invited to St. Gerard to help his friend, Msgr. Churchwell. A few weeks later, Msgr. Churchwell dies. ♦Named pastor of St. Gerard, Ft. Oglethorpe.

The moral of the story? The Holy Spirit has power and might He had to cajole Fr. Wise into unknown territory for God's glory. So, what's new?

Mabel and the St. Vincent de Paul Society

How St. Vincent helps our neighbors

Mabel is a 'repeat' client to St.VdeP, having been helped for the past several years.

Mabel has chronic back pain due to degeneration of her lower back. The pain has little hope of improving and this results in Mabel being down and sometimes depressed.

Mabel is a 59 years old widow who works a manual job of housekeeping at a local hospital. Many days her work is a struggle and when her pain causes her to miss work this reduces her pay check and it becomes a problem to pay for necessities like food, electricity, or rent. St.VdeP usually meets with Mabel at her apartment due to her vehicle not being reliable, and beyond the financial assistance and food we offer her friendship, hope, encouragement, and God's love.

Mabel has two grandchildren that are often left with her for several days. Unfortunately, the parents assume Mabel will feed and entertain the kids adding additional cost. Mabel is a proud woman who is always grateful for any assistance she receives. Thank you for your support of SVDP. Door collection next week.

Pope Francis July Prayer

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work my find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.



Your Weekly Checklist for St. Francis

- I paid attention at Mass and made note of visitors. I greeted them after Mass and found out that we were cousins.
- I signed up for the Bible Time Line Study that begins Thursday, Jul 12th at 10 am or 7 pm. I'll try the first nine weeks, be amazed at God's plan of salvation history. Then attend the next session.
- I'm looking for glue sticks for the school kids before next weekend. They are pretty small, but I'll find them in the store or ask a clerk.
- I will turn in my raffle ticket money to the parish office or put it in the collection basket. I may even get more to sell. I'm gonna win that \$1000. (Buy a ticket first.)
- I'm getting boxes from the grocery store and am filling them up with donations for the Fall Festival. I'm getting a tiny box to put my jewelry donations in. After all, I don't need gold and silver – I am beautiful in God's eyes and that is all that counts.
- I'm attending Mass Wednesday at 9 am. It honors our deceased Knights of Columbus and I want to pray for their souls. I heard there are over 50 names on the deceased names from St. Francis.
- I wonder what that "Holy Listening" is all about Tuesday morning at 10 am. I heard that it is a wonderful exercise in listening to the Word of God, to each other and reflecting. I'm going!
- I will pray for the sick and dying of the parish every day this week. They need our support. I will pray for the unborn, pregnant mothers and those traveling in our area. I might even come to the Wednesday morning prayer group @ 10 am. Yes.
- Friday is *Sisters in Faith*, where Christian women gather to share their love of God and each other. Topic this week is *piety*. I'll go. Marian Hall.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

En 1973 Juan A. Espinosa escribió la canción "Santa María del Camino" con la cual invita a la Madre de Dios a caminar con sus hermanos y hermanas en la fe. La canción reta al creyente a caminar a pesar de lo difícil que puede ser y a luchar por los cambios que sólo el Reino de Dios puede realizar. En todo esto María es invitada a caminar con el creyente.

Además de ser Madre de Dios y madre nuestra, ella también es nuestra hermana y compañera en el camino de la fe. Ella ha llegado a la meta de nuestra peregrinación y lo ha hecho en cuerpo y alma por un privilegio singular. Nosotros también lo haremos en los últimos días cuando nuestro cuerpo resucite para unirse con nuestra alma.

Es en vista de los últimos tiempos que invitamos a María a descender de sus altares, regresando del cielo una y otra vez para caminar con sus hermanas y hermanos, en la fe, que tanto necesitan su ejemplo y apoyo.

