

Welcome to our

February 3, 2019

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family

Sharing the love of Jesus in the north Georgia mountains, and beyond.....

Archdiocese of Atlanta

Father Gaurav Shroff, Parish Administrator

Deacon Larry Casey

Deacon Paul Dietz

Deacon John Barone

Deacon John Paul McGuire

Pastoral Assistant

Mary Smith

Office Manager

Jim Gioia

Finance Assistant

Joan Furst

Dir. of Religious Education

Joe Kwiatkowski

Adult Faith Formation

Colleen Orchanian

Music Director

Marianne Engelmänn

Mass Times: Sat: 4:30 pm
Sun: 8:30 am, 11:00 am &
1:00 pm (Spanish)

Weekday Mass: Mon – Thurs: 9:00 am
Communion Svc: Fri: 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday: 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm (or by appt.)

Eucharistic Adoration:
Mon. – Fri: 9:45 am – 12:00 noon

Office Phone: (706) 745-6400

Church & Office Location:

3717 Highway 515 E.

Blairsville, GA. 30512

Office Hours: Mon – Thurs: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

E-mail: office@stfrancisblairsville.com

Website: www.stfrancisblairsville.com



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 3, 2019

Mass Intentions 2/2 – 2/7

Sat 4:30:	+ George Quinn by Carol Quinn
Sun 8:30	+ George Quinn by Carol Quinn
Sun 11:00	People of Saint Francis of Assisi
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Mon	Current & Former Pastors of SFA by Frances Mason
Tue	Larry & Rita Casey by Lew Caputa
Wed	Charlie Gluodenis by Nancy & Grant Toman
Thu	Kevin Hardy by Judith Supinie

Readings for the Week 2/3-2/9

<u>Sunday</u>		
Jer 1:4-5,17-19	1 Cor12:31-13:13	Lk 4:21-30
<u>Monday:</u>		
Heb 11:32-40	Mk 5:1-20	
<u>Tuesday</u>		
Heb 12:1-4	Mk 5:21-43	St. Agatha [M]
<u>Wednesday</u>		
Heb 12:4-7,11-15	Mk 6:1-6	St. Paul Miki & Companions [M]
<u>Thursday</u>		
Heb 12:18-19,21-24	Mk 6:7-13	
<u>Friday</u>		
Heb 13:1-8	Mk 6:14-29	St. Josephine Bakhita [M]
<u>Saturday</u>		
Heb 13:15-17,20-21	Mk 6:30-34	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday

9:45 am	Catechism	Marian Hall Lower Rm
9:45am	Bible Chat	Room 11
12:15 pm	R.C.I.A.	Conference Room
6:00 pm	Youth Group	Marian Hall – upper

Monday

10:15 pm	Prison Ministry	Room 6
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Tuesday

10:00 am	Book Club	Library
10:00 am	Mom's Group	Room 6
10:00 am	Bereavement Bkfst	Marian Hall
10:00 am	Light Weigh	Room 11
1:00 pm	Bible Timeline	Conf. Room
2:00 pm	Liturgy Commission	Library

Wednesday

10:00 am	Prayer Group	Room 11
6:00 pm	Young Adults	Room 7
6:30 pm	R.C.I.A.	Conf. Room
7:00 pm	Sp. Prayer Group	Church

Thursday

10:00 am	St. VdP Meeting	Conf. Room
4:00 pm	Choir practice	Church
6:30 pm	Men's Group	Conf. Room

Friday

10:00 am	Sisters in Faith	Marian Hall
5:00 pm	Spanish Dance Group	Marian Hall

Saturday

1:00 pm	Franciscan Order	Marian Hall
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Prayer Requests

Joanne Barron	David Shumway
Rita Casey	Fr. Gary Burkart
Lorene Glenn	Barbara Lewis
Madeline Rousseau	Madison (grandchild)
Jean Hiler	Marie Urreizietta
Betty Mendenhall	Fr. G's mom
Bruce Miller	Stephanie Miller
Pam Terranova	Jay Carbonaro
John Grenier	Jacqueline Poirer
Mike Smith	Judy Smith
Gail Cerroni	Pricilla Stab
Ed Tisdale	Yoli Cory

Prayer for Healing

Almighty and merciful Father, by the power of your command, drive away from them all forms of sickness and disease. Restore strength to their bodies and joy to their spirit, so that in renewed health, they may bless and serve you, now and forevermore.



**If people
spent
an hour
a week in
Eucharistic
adoration,
abortion
would be
ended.**

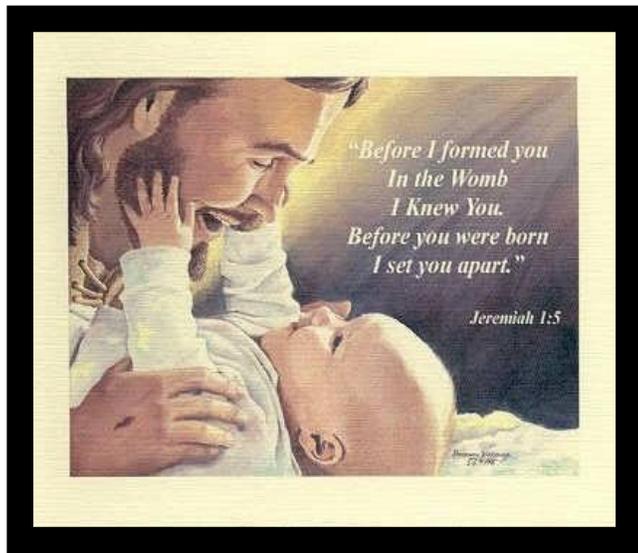
Blessed Mother Teresa

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Daily / Monday – Friday.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm / Benediction

Sign up in the Vestibule



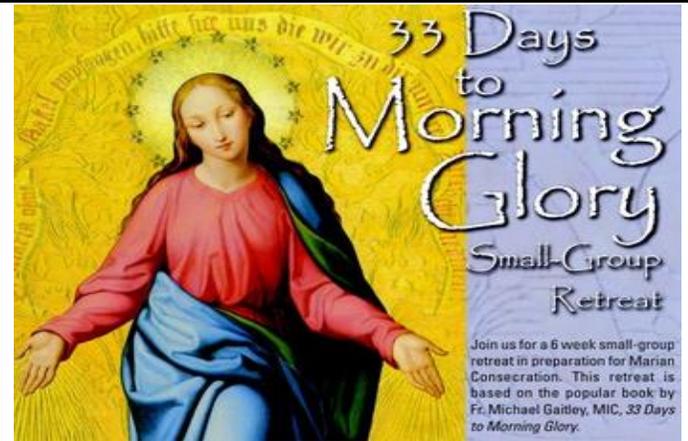
Offertory: January 19 & 20

First Collection: \$6,539.00
Second Collection: \$1,095.00 (Hispanic Ministry)

Those in need of a Tax Statement for 2018 contributions are asked to contact the office, if you haven't yet responded on Flocknote. With recent tax law changes, many more people will take the standard deduction, making it unnecessary to itemize charitable contributions.

Standard deductions amounts are listed for 2018 tax year:

\$12,200 for individuals	\$24,400 for married
\$18,350 head of household	couples filing jointly



33 Days to Morning Glory

Join us for a 33 Day Retreat with Mary! As we prepare to consecrate ourselves to Jesus, through Mary. Also known as Marian Consecration.

What is Marian Consecration?

Marian consecration flows from the grace of our Baptism, through which we were originally consecrated, or "set apart," for Jesus Christ and grafted into His life in the Church. A Marian consecration is a further act of entrustment particularly to the heart of Mary. In this gesture, we ask Mary to dispose us to the will of God as she herself was perfectly disposed.

Who is this Retreat For?

All who are looking to deepen their relationship with Jesus, through a deeper walk with our Mother Mary, the first disciple, and perfect example for us to follow.

When: February 21st – March 28th (THURSDAY)
Morning & evening sessions offered.
10 am & 6 pm

Consecration: March 25th -
Feast of the Annunciation

Cost: \$25 (scholarships available)

Sign up: Call the office to register – (706) 745-6400

St. Vincent de Paul

We are asking for your help! If you have a new, like new or gently used coat that you would like to donate, please drop it off in one of the boxes located near the St Vincent de Paul "Poor Box" in the church vestibule. Thank you for your support of St. Vincent de Paul in our effort to be Jesus to those in need in our community. Your support is very much appreciated!

TODAY'S READINGS
– A Commentary by Scott Hahn

God's words in today's First Reading point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a "prophet to the nations" (see [Luke 1:31–33](#)).

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus too faces hostility. In today's Gospel, the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins—that He's more than just "the son of Joseph."

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colorful careers Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass "many . . . in Israel" to bestow God's blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God (see [1 Kings 17:1–16](#); [2 Kings 5:1–14](#)). "None . . . not one" in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasizes.

His point isn't lost on His audience. They know He's likening them to the "many . . . in Israel" in the days of the prophets. That's why they try to shove Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

And as were Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is sent to proclaim God's gift of salvation—not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realize in faith that from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their "rock of refuge," as we sing in today's Psalm.

Prophecies, Paul tells us in today's Epistle, are partial and pass away "when the perfect comes." In Jesus, the word of the prophets has been brought to perfection, fulfilled in those who have ears to hear, as He declares in today's Gospel.

Greater than the gifts of faith and hope, Jesus shows us how to love as He loved—to love God as our Father, as the one who formed us in the womb and destined us to hear His saving Word. This is the salvation, the "mighty works of the Lord," that we, like the psalmist, are thankful to proclaim daily in the Eucharist.

LECTURAS DE HOY

- Un Comentario de Scott Hahn

Las palabras de Dios en la primera lectura de hoy nos llevan más allá de Jeremías a Jesús. Al igual que Jeremías, Jesús fue consagrado en el vientre y enviado como un "profeta a las naciones" (véase Lucas 1: 31–33).

Al igual que los profetas antes de él, Jesús también enfrenta hostilidad. En el Evangelio de hoy, la multitud en la sinagoga de su ciudad natal se vuelve rápidamente hacia Él, aparentemente exigiendo una señal, alguna prueba de los orígenes divinos, que es más que "el hijo de José".

La señal que les da es la de los profetas Elías y Eliseo. De sus coloridas carreras Jesús dibuja dos historias. En cada uno, los profetas evitan "muchos". . . en Israel "para otorgar las bendiciones de Dios a los no israelitas que tenían fe en que los profetas eran hombres de Dios (véase 1 Reyes 17: 1–16; 2 Reyes 5: 1–14). "Ninguna . . . "No se encontró a nadie que merezca", enfatiza Jesús.

Su punto no se pierde en su audiencia. Saben que los está comparando con los "muchos". . . en Israel "en los días de los profetas. Es por eso que tratan de empujarlo a lo alto del acantilado. Como prometió proteger a Jeremías, el Señor libera a Jesús de aquellos que lo aplastarían.

Y al igual que Elías y Eliseo, Jesús es enviado a proclamar el regalo de salvación de Dios, no exclusivamente para una nación o pueblo, sino para todos los que se dan cuenta con fe de que solo desde la matriz Dios es su esperanza, su salvador, su "roca de refugio". , "Como cantamos en el salmo de hoy.

Las profecías, nos dice Pablo en la Epístola de hoy, son parciales y fallecen "cuando llega el perfecto". En Jesús, la palabra de los profetas se ha llevado a la perfección, cumplida en aquellos que tienen oídos para escuchar, como Él declara en el Evangelio de hoy. .

Más que los dones de la fe y la esperanza, Jesús nos muestra cómo amar como amó, amar a Dios como nuestro Padre, como el que nos formó en el útero y nos destinó a escuchar Su Palabra salvadora.

Esta es la salvación, las "obras poderosas del Señor", que nosotros, como el salmista, estamos agradecidos de proclamar diariamente en la Eucaristía.

Scott Hahn, PhD.

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs



On Feb. 6, the Catholic Church honors the 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki, a group of native Japanese Catholics and foreign missionaries who suffered death for their faith in the year 1597.

During the 16th century, the Catholic faith reached Japan by the efforts of the Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552). Jesuit outreach to the Japanese continued after his death, and around 200,000 Japanese had entered the Church by 1587.

During 1593, Franciscan missionaries came to Japan from the Philippines by order of Spain's King Philip II. These new arrivals gave themselves zealously to the work of charity and evangelism,

but their presence disturbed a delicate situation between the Church and Japanese authorities.

Suspicion against Catholic missionaries grew when a Spanish ship was seized off the Japanese coast and found to be carrying artillery. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a powerful imperial minister, responded by sentencing 26 Catholics to death. The group was comprised of three native Jesuits, six foreign Franciscans, and several lay Catholics including some children. Sentenced to die by crucifixion and lancing, they were first marched 600 miles to the city of Nagasaki. During the journey they underwent public torture meant to terrorize other Japanese believers in Christ. But all of the 26 held out courageously, even singing the hymn of praise "Te Deum" when they arrived at the hill where they would be crucified.

Paul Miki offered an especially strong witness to his faith during the group's month-long march to Nagasaki, as he joined one of the captive Franciscan priests in preaching to the crowds who came to mock the prisoners. "The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ," he announced. "I thank God it is for this reason that I die. I believe that I am telling the truth before I die."

"After Christ's example, I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

St. Paul Miki and his 25 companions were stabbed to death with lances on Feb. 5, 1597, at the site that became known as "Martyrs' Hill." Pope Pius IX canonized the Martyrs of Nagasaki in 1862.

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Very little is known about St. Agatha, other than that she was martyred in Sicily during the persecution of Emperor Decius in 251. According to legend, Agatha dedicated her life to Our Lord at a young age and refused any man who wanted to marry her. Agatha was arrested after refusing the advances of Quintian, a powerful man of high rank, and was imprisoned in a brothel.

Throughout the month she spent being tortured in the brothel, Agatha would pray, "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil," and was preserved from being violated.

Agatha was removed from the brothel and again advanced upon by her captor.

Again, she refused him, saying she was dedicated to God alone. Her captor then sent her to prison, and had her tortured repeatedly. He refused her any medical care, but God comforted her in the form of a vision of St. Peter. Agatha was tortured yet again, and this time her body was grossly mutilated.



She died with this prayer on her lips: "Lord, my Creator, you have always protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world and given me patience to suffer." About a year after her death, Agatha was attributed with calming an erupting volcano, and is revered as a protector against fires. Because of the way her body was mutilated before her death, she is also known as the patroness of breast cancer patients.

St. Josephine Bakhita



Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in Sudan. Historians believe that sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the grueling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name.

One of her owners was a Turkish general who gave her to his wife and mother-in-law who both beat her daily. Josephine wrote that as soon as one wound would heal, they would inflict another. The general's wife ordered her to be scarred. As her mistress watched, ready with a whip, another woman drew patterns on her skin with flour, then cut her flesh with a blade. She rubbed the wounds with salt to make the scars permanent. She suffered a total of 114 scars from this abuse.

In 1883, the Turkish general sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. He was a much kinder master and he did not beat her. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed. After arriving in Italy, she was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny. Her new family also had dealings in Sudan and when her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. While in the custody of the sisters, she learned about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ.

When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave. Her mistress spent three days trying to persuade her to leave the sisters, but Josephine remained steadfast. This caused the superior of the sisters to complain to Italian authorities on Josephine's behalf. The case went to court, and the court found that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born, so she could not be lawfully made a slave. Josephine chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters and took her final vows on December 8, 1896. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza. During World War II, the people of the village of Schio regarded her as their protector. And although bombs fell on their village, not one citizen died.

In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair. But she always remained cheerful. If anyone asked her how she was, she would reply, "As the master desires." When speaking of her enslavement, she often would thank her kidnappers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church. On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died. Her body lay on display for three days afterwards.

The Importance of Online Giving



We would like to take this time to thank all of you participating in online giving with WeShare, and encourage those who have yet to sign up!

Online giving has provided St. Francis of Assisi with more consistent giving, the ability to accept credit and debit cards, the ability to make automatic withdrawals from checking and savings accounts, and saves the administrative staff much needed valuable time.

If you have not made the switch from envelopes to online giving, we graciously ask that you take the time to consider doing so. We believe that online giving offers our parish a better future. Go to our website and click Give Online.

No matter how you give, your gifts are always appreciated.

FAITH

MINISTRY AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Opportunities abound for each of us at St. Francis to deepen our walk with Christ through our own personal growth, and through offering ourselves in service to others in the community. The following list comprises the ministries to help us more deeply know, love and serve God as a member of our parish. Please prayerfully consider whether the Holy Spirit is whispering to you through one of the ministries listed below.....and commit to finding out more. Further information about each ministry, and contact information is available in the WINTER MINISTRY GUIDE.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Bible Chat
Light Weigh
Bible Timeline

SMALL FAITH GROUPS

Catholic Book Club
Catholic Mom's Group
Fire of the Spirit Prayer Group
Spanish Prayer Group
Bereavement Breakfast
Young Adults Catechism
Sisters in Faith
Catholic Dinner Circles
San Damiano Men's Group
Vocation Prayer Team

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Divine Mercy Cenacle
R.C.I.A. – Faith Journey
New Evangelization
Secular Franciscan Order
Marian Consecration – 33 Days to Morning Glory

MINISTRY OF SERVICE

Women's Guild
Knights of Columbus
St. Vincent de Paul
Pro-Life Ministry
Prison Ministry

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Altar servers
Sacristans
Lectors
Eucharistic Ministers

FORMATION

Tired of carrying around your Bible, Catechism, a list of the Daily Mass Readings, and reflections, information on the Saint of the Day, the Breviary, a Catholic Calendar, your prayer books with HUNDREDS of prayers....in English and Latin, videos of Mother Angelica, and other EWTN broadcasts, the Code of Canon Law, Papal Encyclicals, an examination of conscience, and interactive Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet podcasts? Plus more?

Well.....now you no longer have to do that if you have a "smart phone". The smartest thing YOU can do with your smartphone is to download the Laudate app. The #1 Catholic App. And the best part is.....it's FREE.

Download the app today and fall more deeply in love with your Catholic faith. You'll be glad you did!

