

Welcome to our

June 30, 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

Email: gshroff@archatl

Deacon Larry Casey

Deacon J.P. McGuire

Deacon Paul Dietz

Deacon John Barone

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 noon

Church Office

Phone: (706) 745-6400

3717 Hwy 515

Blairsville, GA. 30512

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

E-mail: office@stfrancisblairsville.com

Website: www.stfrancisblairsville.com

Office Manager

Jim Gioia

Finance Assistant

Joan Furst

Dir. Of Religious Education

Joe Kwiatkowski

Adult Faith Formation

Colleen Orchanian

Music Director

Marianne Engelmann



June 30, 2019

Mass Intentions June 29th –July 5th

Sat 4:30 pm	Richard & Renee Graff -45 th Anniversary By The Graff's
Sun 8:30 am	Betty Supinie By Judith Supinie
Sun 11:00 am	+ Pamela Turk By Carolyn Harahan
Mon 9 am	+ Harry Costello By Paul & Mary Sanfilippo
Tue 9 am	+ Mary McQuill Ramella By Lou Caputa
Wed 9am	+ Bee Werber By Merry Balchunas
Thur 9 am	Leaders of America By Grizio Family
Fri 9 am	Communion Service

Readings: The Week of June 30th - July 6th

Sunday		
1Kgs 19:16-21	Gal 5:1,13-18	Lk 9:51-62
Monday – St. Junipero Serra		
Gn:18:16-33	Mt 8:18-22	
Tuesday		
Gn 19:15-29	Mt 8:23-27	
Wednesday – St. Thomas the Apostle		
Eph 2:19-22	Jn 20:24-29	
Thursday		
Gn 22:1-19	Mt 9:1-8	
Friday		
Gn 23:1-4,19, 24:1-8, 62-67	Mt 9:9-13	
Saturday – St. Maria Goretti		
Gn 27:1-5, 15-29	Mt 9:14-17	

WEEKLY CALENDAR JUNE 30 – July 6

Sunday

9:45 am Bible Chat Room 11

Monday

10:00 am Bible Study Room 6
7:00 pm Bible Study Room 6

Tuesday

10:00 am Light Weigh Room 11
1:00 pm Life & Dignity Room 6

Wednesday

10:00 am Prayer Group Room 11
6:00 pm Young Adult Dinner Room 6
7:00 pm Spanish Prayer Group Church

Thursday

4th of July Holiday – Office Closed

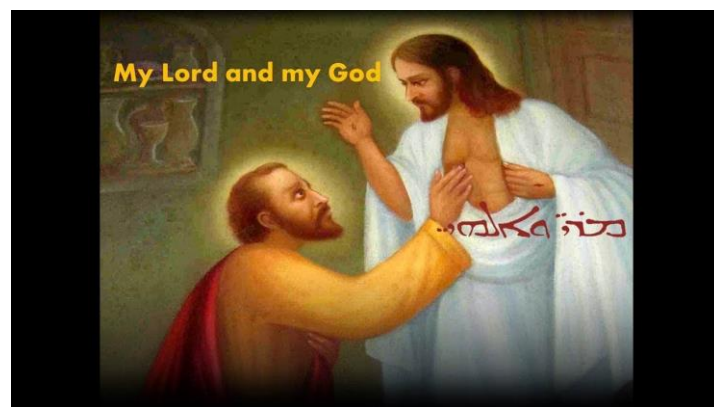
10:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Conf. Room

Friday – First Friday

No Scheduled Events

Saturday – First Saturday

No Scheduled Events



Prayer Requests

John Plankey	Nick & Janice Barlotta
David Drake	Fr. G's mom
Fr. Gary Burkhardt	Pam Terranova
Roseanne Ashley	Marge Breslin
Ken Voss	Emil Teranova
Bill Eckstein	Jean Hiler, ofs
Pat Smith	Judy Smith
Robert Hafer	Ray Fiore
Jack Gallagher	Margaret McCamy
Joan Tufford	JoJo O'Neil
Carol Eckstein	Donald Elyard
Bev Schutt	Irene Tisdale
Julie Waltz	Raymond Waltz

Names will be removed after 30 days unless requested to remain

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 the renewed health, they may bless and serve you, now and forevermore.

Offertory June 22nd & 23rd

First Collection: \$8,175.00
Second Collection: \$2,099.00 Debt Reduction

WELCOME FR. JAIME!!!



We are overjoyed to welcome our new pastor, Fr. Jaime Rivera to St. Francis of Assisi!!!

Fr. Jaime has had quite a journey before joining us in the mountains of Blairsville. Before entering the seminary, he worked in a fast food joint, the post office and as an IRS clerk.

Father Rivera studied at the Pontifical University

of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome where he graduated with honors. Along with his classes, he worked with the Missionaries of Charity, where he served people in need, revealing a true servants heart.

In 2003, he spent time at St. Pius X Church in Conyers, (where our Fr. Juan is the current pastor), and in 2006 two dozen parishioners from St. Pius X traveled to Rome to watch him become a deacon at St. Peter's.

Fr. Jaime received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Pontifical Catholic University, Ponce, Puerto Rico, 1996, and received a bachelor's degree in sacred theology cum laude in 2006, and a master's degree in sacred theology magna cum laude in 2007 from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy.

Fr. Jaime has been a teacher at Colegio San José, a Catholic boys preparatory school in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He also has worked as a clerk and tax examiner for the IRS, in Massachusetts, and as a clerk and machine operator for the U.S. Postal Service, in Massachusetts as well.

Fr. Jaime's heart for ministry leads him to have a devotion to youth ministry, prison ministry and hospital ministry. What a blessing for our community!

In his spare time, Fr. Jaime's primary hobbies and interests include computers, exercise, music, and films. In addition to speaking English and Spanish, Father Jaime also is fluent in Italian as well. As Fr. Jaime gets settled in, and learns his way around town, be sure to say "Hi", and let him know how happy we are that he is here with us at St. Francis!

St. Junipero Serra



Miguel Jose Serra was born on the island of Majorca on November 24, 1713, and took the name of Junipero when in 1730, he entered the Franciscan Order. Ordained in 1737, he

taught philosophy and theology at the University of Padua until 1749.

At the age of thirty-seven, he landed in Mexico City on January 1, 1750, and spent the rest of his life working for the conversion of the peoples of the New World.

In 1768, Father Serra took over the missions of the Jesuits (who had been wrongly expelled by the government) in the Mexican province of Lower California and Upper California (modern day California). An indefatigable worker, Serra was in large part responsible for the foundation and spread of the Church on the West Coast of the United States when it was still mission territory.

He founded twenty-one missions and converted thousands of Indians. The converts were taught sound methods of agriculture, cattle raising, and arts and crafts.

Junipero was a dedicated religious and missionary. He was imbued with a penitential spirit and practiced austerity in sleep, eating, and other activities. Junipero's missionary life was a long battle with cold and hunger, with unsympathetic military commanders and even with danger of death from non-Christian native peoples. Through it all his unquenchable zeal was fed by prayer each night, often from midnight till dawn. He baptized over 6,000 people and confirmed 5,000. His travels would have circled the globe. He brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. He won their love, as witnessed especially by their grief at his death.

On August 28, 1784, worn out by his apostolic labors, Father Serra was called to his eternal rest. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 25, 1988. His statue, representing the state of California, is in National Statuary Hall. His feast day is July 1.

He is buried at Mission San Carlo Borromeo, Carmel, and was beatified in 1988 by St. John Paul II, and Pope Francis canonized him in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2015.

St. Thomas the Apostle - July 3rd



François-Joseph Navez, *Incredulità di S. Tommaso*, 1823, Jack Kilgore, New York

St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects.

He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said

He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred.

This is all that we know about St. Thomas from the New Testament. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast,

which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India.

The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.

Saint Thomas was mentioned in several texts, including one document called *The Passing of Mary*, which claims then-apostle Thomas was the only one to witness the Assumption of Mary into heaven, while the other apostles were transported to Jerusalem to witness her death. While the other apostles were with Mary, Thomas was left in India until after her first burial, when he was transported to her tomb and he saw her bodily assumption into heaven, when her girdle was left behind.

In versions of the story, the other apostles doubted Thomas' words until Mary's tomb was discovered to be empty with the exception of her girdle. Thomas and the girdle were often depicted in medieval and early Renaissance art.



In anticipation of the pending semi-retirement of our financial assistant, Joan Furst, the parish is seeking individuals who have experience in accounting/ bookkeeping/ finance.

This is a part-time position, and involves bill processing, invoice coding, and other related tasks. Anyone with interest is asked to drop a resume' by the office. Thank you.

St. Maria Goretti July 6th



Born on October 16 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Ancona Province in Italy, her farmworker father moved his family to Ferrier di Conca, near Anzio. When he died of malaria, Maria's mother had to struggle to feed her children.

Maria's mother, brothers, and sisters worked in the fields while she cooked, sewed, kept the house

clean, and watched her youngest sister Teresa. Though the family's circumstances were extremely difficult, they were very close and loved God.

On July 5, 1902, Maria was sitting outside the steps of her home sewing her 18-year-old brother or neighbor - it is unclear which - Alessandro's shirt while he threshed beans in the barnyard. As she concentrated on her sewing, Alessandro surprised her and grabbed her from her steps. When he tried to rape her, Maria cried that it was a mortal sin and warned he would go to hell.

When Alessandro persisted, she fought him and screamed, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" At her words, Alessandro began to choke her and she said she would rather die than submit. Upon hearing her words, Alexander pulled out a knife and stabbed her eleven times. When she attempted to reach the door, he stabbed her three more times then fled.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia.

Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise."

As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria."

She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in

Heaven with her. She died that day while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest. Shortly after Maria's family discovered her, Alexander was captured and questioned. He admitted Maria was a physical virgin as he was unable to assault her and he was sentenced to thirty years. He also admitted he had attempted to persuade her to accompany him to bed on several occasions in the past and had attempted to rape her before.

Alessandro remained unrepentant for his actions until he had a dream that he was in a garden. Maria was there and gave him lilies, which immediately burned in his hands. When he woke, he was a changed man. He repented his crime and living a reformed life. When he was released 27-years-later, he went directly to Maria's mother and begged her forgiveness, which she gave, saying, "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?"

Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a laybrother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death.

Saint Maria is called a martyr because she fought against Alessandro's attempts at sexual sin; however, the most important aspects of her story are how she forgave her attacker - her concern for her enemy extending even beyond death - and the miracle her forgiveness produced in his life.

Saint Maria's body can be found in the crypt of the Basilica of Nostra Signora delle Grazie e Santa Maria Goretti in Nettuno. Though several claim her body is incorrupt, she has been proven to be corrupt. Her body is kept in a statue which lies beneath the altar and has been mistaken to be all of her remains. Images of Saint Maria often represent her with wavy hair dressed in either white or farm clothes and is often depicted holding lilies.



MECKS PARK
SUNDAY, June 30th
2:30 PM

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the annual parish picnic at Meeks Park in Blairsville on the last day of June. The parish will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs, the rest is potluck. Bring a chair, a frisbee (or not), but come! Enjoy the meal, sit and relax by the creek with your parish family and toss that frisbee!

St. Anthony Zaccaria's Story



At the same time that Martin Luther was attacking abuses in the Church, a reformation within the Church was already being attempted. Among the early movers of the Counter-Reformation was Anthony Zaccaria. His mother became a widow at 18, and devoted herself to the spiritual education

of her son. He received a medical doctorate at 22, and while working among the poor of his native Cremona in Italy, was attracted to the religious apostolate. He renounced his rights to any future inheritance, worked as a catechist, and was ordained a priest at the age of 26. Called to Milan in a few years, he laid the foundations of three religious congregations, one for men, one for women, and an association of married couples. Their aim was the reform of the decadent society of their day, beginning with the clergy, religious, and lay people.

Greatly inspired by Saint Paul—his congregation is named the Barnabites, after the companion of that saint—Anthony preached with great vigor in church and street, conducted popular missions, and was not ashamed of doing public penance.

He encouraged such innovations as the collaboration of the laity in the apostolate, frequent Communion, the Forty Hours devotion, and the ringing of church bells at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. His holiness moved many to reform their lives, but as with all saints, it also moved many to oppose him. Twice his community had to undergo official religious investigation, and twice it was exonerated.

While on a mission of peace, he became seriously ill and was brought home for a visit to his mother. He died at Cremona at the age of 36.

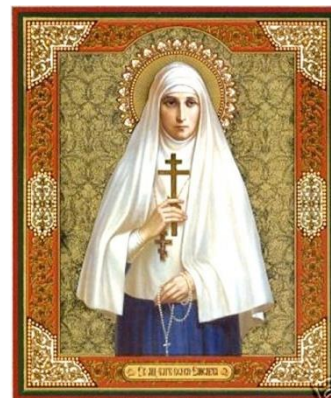


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St. Elizabeth of Portugal's Story

Elizabeth is usually depicted in royal garb with a dove or an olive branch. At her birth in 1271, her father Pedro III, future king of Aragon, was reconciled with his father James, the reigning monarch. This proved to be a portent of things to come. Under the healthful influences surrounding her early years, she quickly learned self-discipline and acquired a taste for spirituality.



Thus fortunately prepared, Elizabeth was able to meet the challenge when at the age of 12, she was given in marriage to Denis, king of Portugal. She was able to establish for herself a pattern of life conducive to growth in God's love, not merely through her exercises of piety, including daily Mass, but also through her exercise of charity, by which she was able to befriend and help pilgrims, strangers, the sick, the poor—in a word, all those whose need came to her notice. At the same time she remained devoted to her husband, whose infidelity to her was a scandal to the kingdom.

Denis, too, was the object of many of her peace endeavors. Elizabeth long sought peace for him with God, and was finally rewarded when he gave up his life of sin. She repeatedly sought and effected peace between the king and their rebellious son Alfonso, who thought that he was passed over to favor the king's illegitimate children. She acted as peacemaker in the struggle between Ferdinand, king of Aragon, and his cousin James, who claimed the crown. And finally from Coimbra, where she had retired as a Franciscan tertiary to the monastery of the Poor Clares after the death of her husband, Elizabeth set out and was able to bring about a lasting peace between her son Alfonso, now king of Portugal, and his son-in-law, the king of Castile.



GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

Please take some time this 4th of July, aside from the picnics, fireworks, and fun to thank God for the many blessings that he has bestowed upon the

United States of America. May we always be a country that acknowledges God as the true Leader of our nation.