

# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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

Fr. Gaurav Shroff, Parish Administrator

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 22, 2018

### CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

There's a bit of a "missing link" in the first two sentences of today's Gospel from Mark. In the first, the apostles return from having been sent out on mission two by two ("one who is sent" is the meaning of "apostle"). Their instructions were to preach repentance, drive out demons, and heal the sick in Jesus' name. In the second sentence, Jesus tells them to come away with him and rest a while. It would be nice for us to imagine that, between those two sentences, a look of amazed gratitude and pleasure crossed the face of Jesus as he hears of the kingdom proclaimed in his name, and how they didn't have to shake the dust off their feet anywhere. They deserved a rest! It might not be bad for us, when we gather together with Jesus as the apostles do today, to do this kind of debriefing, allowing the Lord to hear what we've sought to do in his name, our successes, our failures, our need to get away with him for a while to be fortified for further work in God's name. For we, the baptized, are not only the flock of Jesus Christ; through water and the power of the Spirit we have also become the Body of Christ, the presence of the Shepherd for the life of the world. © J. S. Paluch Co

**FALL FESTIVAL** Sept. 28 – 30, 2018



### THE PATH TO PEACE

Forgiveness can be hard to achieve. If you have broken a relationship that you wish could be restored, you know the longing for reconciliation. In some cases, you may not even seek reconciliation. You may still be angry over an injury committed against you, your home, or someone you love. You may wonder how one nation could ever reconcile with another after being at war. The death and destruction caused by war lies beyond imagination, healing seems unreachable. Then forgiveness seems not only hard - it seems impossible. In the first century, the separation between Jews and Gentiles was severe. The Letter to the Ephesians called it a "dividing wall of enmity." It seemed as though the two groups would never agree, never get together, never heal the old wounds. But then came Jesus, who suffered and died so that everyone might have life. Ephesians says, "He is our peace, he who made both one." Through the cross, Christ put death to death, but he also put enmity to death. "He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father." Forgiveness may seem unreachable, but all things are possible with Christ. © 2008 Resource Publications

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

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Our Deacons

Larry Casey, Paul Dietz, JP McGuire, John Barone

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