

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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

Fr. Gaurav Shroff, Parish Administrator

the EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Jan 6, 2019

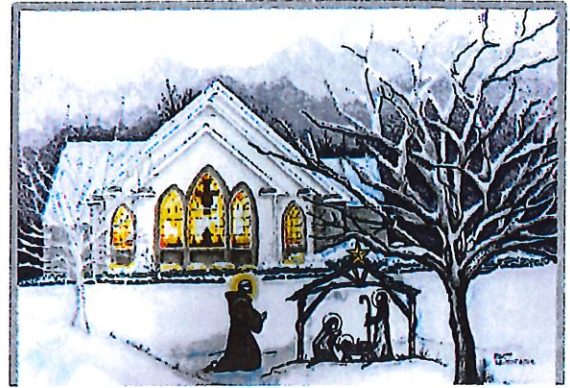
Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matt 2:1-12).

FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord: A Proclamation and a Blessing

This weekend we observe the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. At our Masses we heard "The Announcement of Easter and the Movable Feasts," proclaimed after the Gospel.

The tradition of announcing the date of Easter on the celebration of the Epiphany began in the early centuries of Christianity, before the ordinary person had access to a personal calendar (much less to radio, TV, or the internet). As we know, the date of Easter changes from year to year. Since the Easter Triduum is the center of the liturgical year, several other feasts depend upon its date: Ash Wednesday, the Ascension, Pentecost, and the First Sunday of Advent. In all of the celebrations of the year, Christ is at the center, the "Lord of time and history."

Our liturgies for the Epiphany will also include the Blessing of Chalk. At the end of Mass, we will be invited to take pieces of the blessed chalk with us, to use as part of a blessing for our homes. When we ask God for this blessing, we use the chalk to write above the front doorway, (on the inside): 20 C+M+B+19 – 2019 for the year and C, M, B for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (traditional names of the Magi) and also for Christus mansionem benedicat (Latin for "May Christ, bless this house").

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Weekend: Sat. 4:30, Sun: 8:30, 11:00, 1 pm Sp

Daily: M-Th: 9 am

Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:15 or by appointment

Marriage: Contact office 6 mos. before date.

Baptisms: Contact office 3 mos. before date.

CONTACT US

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Parish Media

W: www.stfrancisblairsville.com

f: [facebook.com/sfablairsville](https://www.facebook.com/sfablairsville)

20+C+M+B+19

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Jan 6 – Jan 12, 2019

Sat.	4:30 p	†	<i>Ron Grubbs</i> Pat Pierce
Sun	8:30 a	†	<i>David Fitkin</i> Mary Ann Fitkin
Sun	11:00 a	†	<i>Kay Sawyer</i> Joanna McConnell
Sun	1:00 p		<i>People of St. Francis</i> Fr. Gaurav Shroff
Mon	9:00	†	<i>Terry Reuter</i> Ralph Reuter
Tues	9:00	†	<i>Nicole Nabb</i> Bill Calise
Wed	9:00	†	<i>Terry Reuter</i> Ralph Reuter
Thu	9:00	†	<i>Mmgr. Valentine Sheedy</i> Bill Calise
Fri	9:00		<i>Communion Service</i>
Sat	4:30	†	<i>Logan Family (Deceased)</i> Frances Mason

ONLINE GIVING

<https://www.churchgiving.com/?pc=ynvrsi89>

OUR CHURCH GIVING LAST WEEK (Dec. 30, 2018, Jan 1, 2019)

<i>First Collection</i>	\$5556.00
<i>Second Collection</i>	\$ 879.00
<i>Solemnity of Mary</i>	\$2684.00

Next Week's Second Collection

Jan 13 – Georgia Bulletin Newspaper
This collection helps defer the subscription cost of the archdiocesan newspaper to our homes.

LIVING FLAME OF THE

SANCTUARY LIGHT burns this week for
Dcn. Larry and Rita Casey by Judy Baldwin

Pope Francis' January 2019 Prayer Intention

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

HOLY LAND IN NOVEMBER

Information Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 5th after the 4:30 Mass – Marian Hall or Monday, Jan. 7th after the 9 am Mass (9:45?).

EPIPHANY POTLUCK PARTY

Jan 6, 2019 @ 2 pm

It's technically still Christmas even if your tree is down and you have already forgotten if you gave gifts this year. Let's celebrate! The Messiah is born, he is adored by the Magi, and we shall gather as a parish family once again. Yes, you should come.

Hanging with Fr. Gaurav

Wednesday at G & G Bakery

Coffee? Donut? Bagel? Nothing? Are you sure? Well, join Fr. Gaurav for coffee and a confection of your choice at G & G Wednesday at 10 am. Meet some new folks, catch up on local news, enjoy your coffee...or water.

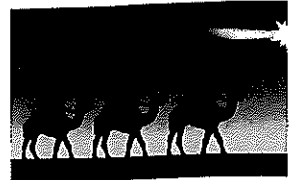
PRAYER REQUEST

Pam Terranova
Jay Carbonaro
John Grenier
Jacqueline Poirer
Mike Smith
Judy Smith
Gail Cerroni
Pricilla Stab
Ed Tisdale
Jean Hiler
Andrea (skiñ)
Fr. Gary Burkart
Lorene Glenn
Rita Casey
Madeline Rousseau OFS
Harold Nicholson
Barbara Lewis
David Shumway
Madison (grandchild)
Harrison Kiefer Benoit
Marie Urriezietta

Please call the parish office to add or remove a name to the prayer list.
706-745-6400

FAMILY PRAYER

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another with fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph pray for us.



This Week

◆ SUNDAY 1/06

Epiphany

9:45 Religious Ed
9:45 Bible Chat
12:15 R.C.I.A.
2:00 Epiphany Party
6:00 Youth Group

◆ MONDAY 1/07

10: Holy Land Meeting
12: Prison Ministry
6: Finance Council

◆ TUESDAY 1/08

9:30 Moms Group
9:45 Rosary for Vocations
10: Bereavement Br.
12:15 Light Weigh
12:30 Disciples of Jesus & Mary
All day – Staff Retreat

◆ WEDNESDAY

10: G&G with Fr. G
10: Prayer Group
6: Parish Council
6:30 R.C.I.A.
7: Spanish Prayer Gr.

◆ THURSDAY

10: Divine Mercy Cen.
10: St. Vincent Meeting
10:30 Mass Branah L.
4: Choir
6:30 Knights Meeting

◆ FRIDAY

10: Sisters in Faith

◆ SATURDAY

1-4 Secular Franciscans

ITALIAN DINNER

January 19 at 6 pm

Mark your calendar and buy your ticket. Or buy your ticket and mark your calendar either way, a great Italian dinner awaits you on January 19th in Marian Hall. The Knights of Columbus will be helping in the kitchen with the Griggs family manning the pasta pots. \$13 a person, 2 for \$25.00. Tickets available after Mass this weekend and next.

NEW SUNDAY RCIA GROUP

STARTS THIS WEEK

EXPLORING CATHOLICISM

Do you come to church with your spouse, participate in Mass and sometimes think about joining the Catholic Church? Maybe it is time to act. A new group will begin to explore Catholicism on Sundays after the 11 AM Mass. Here are the details:

Meets at about 12:15 Sundays in Room 6 of the Parish Center, lower level. Sessions last till 1:45 pm. First Session is Sunday, January 6th. Contact person is Marilyn Hixson – hixsonm@hotmail.com or 706-835-1779. Come. Ask questions. See where the Lord leads you.

MOMS GROUP MEETING

TIME CHANGE

Got milk? Then you've got kids (children, of course). This lovely group of baby-toting moms meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month, now from 9:30-11:30. Childcare provided, breakfast provided, friends awaiting – sounds like an invitation!

BREAKFAST AND BUNCO

Women's Guild January Meeting

Tuesday, January 15 @ 10:00 AM

Bunco, you say? Yes, we say. Don't know what it is. It's a game, we say. Breakfast with the Women's Guild? Sounds good, we say. Meet in Marian Hall? It's a deal, we say. You'll teach me to play? That's no bunk...we will that day.

BEREAVEMENT BREAKFAST

January 8 @ 10 am

Enjoy a meal with other parishioners who have lost a spouse and are adjusting to a new life. Some days are good days. Some are not. Fellowship helps. Friendship heals. Our faith connects us. Join us for breakfast

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

Jan 8 @ 9:45 in the church

ENCUENTRO CON DIOS

Los espléndidos Reyes Magos –destellantes, majestuoso y solemnes–, salen hoy de las páginas de Mateo y van rumbo a nuestra iglesia. Solamente Mateo nos habla de esta grande e interesante historia para que podamos ver la luz y saber que el niño que visitaron los Reyes Magos era el cumplimiento de la profecía, el rey cuyo mensaje llega hasta la tierra natal de estos magos y mucho más allá, hasta nuestra época.

Nosotros también nuevamente podemos ver y entender. Al igual que estos magos, nuestros santos patronos en este día, vemos en el niño recién nacido al rey del universo y la luz del mundo. Como los Reyes Magos, encontramos dentro de nosotros una nueva fe y una nueva vida. Como ellos, regresamos a casa por una nueva ruta.

Se nos pide terminemos esta temporada festiva renovados y consientes de la presencia de Dios entre nosotros. Se nos pide encontrar a Dios donde se le puede encontrar, que estemos atentos y listos para, con asombro, inclinarnos en adoración y ofrecer nuestras ofrendas.

ENSANCHA EL CORAZÓN

La alegría provocada por la presencia del amor de Dios ensancha el corazón para la acción de gracias y para la acogida a los demás.

—Gustavo Gutierrez: *Beber de su propio pozo*

