

THE 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annunciation Catholic Church

Bogalusa, Louisiana

September 1, 2019

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 31st 4:00 PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Leo White, Herbert Bush, Welfare of Marietta Corkern, Welfare of Dave and Donna Jarrett, Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Sr., Welfare of Rita Anderson, Welfare of Julie Lott, Ellen Knight

Sunday, September 1st 8:30 AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Irma Lee Callender, Bobby Schneider, Paulette Jacobs, Ellen Knight, Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Sr., Welfare of Donna and Dave Jarrett, Welfare of Dr. Vincent Hotho, Sylvia Spillman, Welfare of Tommie Jean Rayburn, Welfare of Joe and Shirley Saltaformaggio, Val Haaga, Sr. Birthday

10:30 AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, September 3rd 8:00 AM
Welfare of the Simpson Family

Wednesday, September 4th 8:00AM
Royce Arthur
Ermine Ann Blazio Birthday

Thursday, September 5th 8:00AM
Ellen Knight

Friday, September 6th 8:00AM
Vincent Brouillette, Sr.

Saturday, September 7th 4:00PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Nathan and Carol Bush, Leo White, Welfare of Julie Lott, Herbert Bush, Paulette H. Jacobs, Ellen Knight, Lucille Brouillette, Betty McClendon Birthday, In Thanksgiving to St. Maximilian Kolher FD 8-14

Sunday, September 8th 8:30AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Margaret and Bobby Bush, Sheanie C. Mitchell, Bobby Schneider, Irma Lee Callender, Edward Glenn Strickland, Ellen Knight Sylvia Spillman, Welfare of Mary Melancon 90th Birthday, Welfare of Joe and Shirley Saltaformaggio, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90 Birthday, Welfare of Millie Underwood 90th Birthday, Welfare of Cris Sampson and family

10:30 AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

*Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
In Memory of:*

Dorman and Helen Crowe

Last Week's Collection August 24, 2019 – August 25, 2019

Loose-Checks & Cash \$1,550.00
Envelopes \$2,630.00
Total: **\$4,180.00**

Budgeted funds needed to
operate: \$6,299.00

**Amount under weekly budget:
\$2,119.00**

**Thank You for Your
Generosity!**

"Bereavement Fund" \$2,231.00

TRADITION: THE MEMORY OF THE CHURCH – AND WHY IT MATTERS

Just as it is impossible for a man, or even an animal, to function without memory, so it is impossible for the Church to function without tradition. Far from irrelevant or outdated, tradition is the living memory of the Church. Without tradition, the Church makes no sense. **There is simply no Catholicism without tradition.**

The Church, after all, is a body, a living organism with a distinct identity. Without tradition, without memory, this body has no context, no knowledge of where it came from or where it is going, what its mission is or why it should even exist. Without tradition, the Church is doomed to be swept along by passing fads and prevailing moods, like a patient with no memory is led helplessly along a hospital hallway.

The inevitable outcome of a loss of memory is a crisis of identity. **And that is why it should come as no surprise that the last 50 years of Catholicism have been defined by a terrible identity crisis, just as many Catholics eagerly jettisoned the traditions of the faith.**

Despite this lack of Catholic identity, many have made tradition a dirty word. Some laymen and prelates scowl and snarl, "Dead traditions!"

"We are never going back! Worthless pining for the past! Empty nostalgia! A waste of time!"

I firmly believe these people prefer the helpless and neutered Church, the church without memory, aim or direction, because they can make it "the church of whatever they please." Severed from tradition, the Church becomes a blank slate for them to manipulate at will, creating a personalized religion of their own taste. This tradition-less Church becomes a rudderless ship for them to steer as they please.

No other kind of Catholicism – outside of the ONE, TRUE FAITH which Christ himself established – makes any sense at all, for the True Faith is the antithesis of a personal religion. It is *Catholic* faith, universal, transcending time and space, and therefore it must be a gift that is handed down and not a slave to the impulses of the ever-changing culture. As one saint said, "Truth does not change from day to day."

We cannot discard the practice and piety that has been handed down for centuries without inevitably harming the whole fabric of the faith. It's like trying to rip the intricate embroidery from a tapestry without harming the larger cloth. It is impossible. They are bound up inextricably together. But that is not to say that new threads cannot be added to the tapestry, to continue the analogy. Tradition is not something static or unchangeable. The Church has and always will respond to the needs of the times, but she should always do so without abandoning her traditions.

The *long and the short of it* is this: Catholicism without tradition is a contradiction in terms. Our Catholic Faith must always be rooted in the firm foundation of tradition, or it simply ceases to exist. A tradition-less faith may be a religion, but it is not Catholicism. As Catholics, we are faced by a cultural dictatorship of relativism, pluralism, and societally demanded political correctness. It is all a bit overwhelming, and it would be easy to succumb to this onslaught if we do not have some rock to cling to. That rock is nothing less than the unchanging Catholic faith, as received through 20 centuries.

- Fr. Bru