

THE 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annunciation Catholic Church

Bogalusa, Louisiana

September 8, 2019

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 7th

4:00 PM

Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Nathan and Carol Bush, Leo White, Paulette H. Jacobs, Ellen Knight, Lucille Brouillette, Herbert Bush, Welfare of Julie Lott, InThanksgiving for St. Maximillian Kolher FD8-14, Betty McClendon's Birthday

Sunday, September 8th

8:30 AM

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

10:30 AM

Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, September 10th

8:00 AM

Welfare of the Simpson Family

Wednesday, September 11th

8:00AM

Ellen Knight

Thursday, September 12th

8:00AM

Royce Arthur

Friday, September 13th

8:00AM

Ellen Knight

Saturday, September 14th

4:00PM

Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Paulette Jacobs, Herbert Bus, Welfare of Julie Lott, Gloria Tuller, Lucille Brouillette, Welfare of Millie Underwood 90th birthday, Earl and Josie Schexnayder

Sunday, September 15th

8:30AM

Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Bobby Schneider, Irma Lee Callender, Ellen Knight, Sylvia Spillman, Paulette Jacobs, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90th Birthday, Welfare of Debbie Jenkins, Welfare of Newell Bush, Welfare of Mary Brignac 90th Birthday, Welfare of Steve and Shay LeBlanc.

10:30 AM

Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns

In memory of:

Claude Bush

Last Week's Collection August 31, 2019 – Sept. 1, 2019

Loose-Checks & Cash	\$1,899.00
Envelopes	\$2,696.00
Total:	\$4,595.00

Budgeted funds needed to
operate: \$6,299.00

Amount under weekly budget:
\$1,704.00

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Next Collection 9-15-19
The Catholic Communication
Campaign

To What Are We Paying Attention?

Of all the faculties of human nature, one of the most powerful is that of attention. What we choose to attend to a great degree shapes our experience of the world for good or ill.

Our intellectual faculties are limited, and we simply cannot pay attention to all the visual or auditory stimuli we experience every day. And so our minds are constantly filtering out the noise and looking for what we desire to see.

For example, if you are at a store looking for a specific product, in a very real sense you will not see the thousands of other products that are not what you are looking for. Your eyes may register them at some level, but because you are looking for a specific pattern, like a product label, your mind will filter out everything that is not that pattern. You see, and yet you do not see because you are not paying attention.

Likewise, if we choose to attend to what is good and true and beautiful in life, to look for it intentionally, that is what we will see. But if we choose to see and attend to all that is flawed and broken and evil in the world, we will inevitably find it.

You get what you expect; you see what you look for. This is what our Lord meant when he talked about the eye being the lamp of the body: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness." There is an intentionality to our gaze. Our Lord was telling us that what we choose to attend to will either fill us with light or darkness.

St. Paul likewise acknowledges the power of attention to shape us when he admonishes us to attend to what is good: "Brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Despite the power of attention to fill us with light or darkness, we rarely pay attention to what we are paying attention to. Our minds are ceaselessly flitting from one thing to the next, and at times, it can feel like we have little to no control over them. Media, too, captures our attention and inundates us with thousands of impressions, all of which subtly shape us in ways we hardly realize.

While it may at times feel like the problem of fragmented attention is a uniquely modern problem, it is not. Even the Desert Fathers who lived alone in caves complained of their wandering minds.

Caught in this web of distractions that fragments our attention, we feel a longing for peace. At times, our desire for union with God or prayer may even well up within us, but how can we possibly seek him when we can hardly hold our focus for more than a few seconds?

Just as we can intentionally set our gaze to look for something specific in a store, we can choose to look for God's presence. We can awaken to his reality here and now, in this very moment. This takes effort, distracted as we are, but it is an effort that will bear eternal fruit.

So pay attention to what you are paying attention to. If you desire God's presence, begin to realize that is already there and begin to attend to this presence. And he will begin to reveal himself to you in ways large and small; you will begin to see him everywhere.

If at times, caught in the morass of distractions that is the modern world, you feel a stirring, a longing for God, realize that you do not have to go far to find him. He is here and now in your midst. We only have to have eyes to see, and if our eyes are sound, we will be filled with light.

- Fr. Bru

