

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annunciation Catholic Church

Bogalusa, Louisiana

October 11, 2020

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 10th 4:00 PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Thomas James Owens, Jr., Winnie H. Jordan, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Marty Paige, Welfare of Lynda Cookston, Welfare of Millie Underwood, Dave Jarret, Anita Sierra Nuss

Sunday, October 11th 8:30AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Margaret and Bobby Bush, Irma Lee Callender, David Arceneaux, Lawrence Wille, Anita Sierra Nuss, Welfare of Kay Crowe, Welfare of Jerri Stewart, Clyde Swilley, Jackie Cerniglia

10:30 AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, October 13th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille

Wednesday, October 14th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille

Thursday, October 15th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille

Friday, October 16th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille,

Saturday, October 17th 4:00PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Thomas J. Owens, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Sr., Andy Stewart, Rita Anderson, Welfare of Marvin and Marty Paige, Welfare of Rose Conerly, Welfare off Bet McClendon, Welfare of Millie Underwood

Sunday, October 18th 8:30AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Margaret and Bobby Bush, Irma Lee Callender, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Bob Ricca, Welfare of Linda Haaga, Welfare of Gary Duncan, Welfare of Millie Underwood

10:30AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp
Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
For the Repose of the Soul of:
Edward Ratcliff

Last Week's Collection October 3rd and 4th 2020

Loose-Checks & Cash \$3,186.00
Envelopes \$3,154.00
Total: \$6,340.00

Budgeted funds needed to
operate: \$6,299.00

Surplus over Weekly Budget:
\$ 41.00

Altar Society Collection
\$1,262.00

**Thank You for Your
Generosity!!!**

Serious Catholicism? Objection, Your Honor!

Southern Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor is famous for her short stories and blunt talk. When a friend opined about how beautiful the symbolism was in the Mass, O'Connor responded, "Well, if it's just a symbol, to hell with it." Later she reflected on that moment and her line in the sand response saying, "[The Eucharist] is the center of existence for me; all the rest of life is expendable."

For decades, many prophets have decried that many Catholics live a sort of "buffet line" Catholicism. We pick and choose what pleases our moral palates. And every aspect of it is seemingly expendable depending on our mood and circumstance.

Yet, so many of the saints that we admire did not have that kind of faith. A faith built on rock is one where Jesus is the answer to all of our questions. Again, there is nothing symbolic about it. Further, a convicted faith is one whereby we seek to build God's kingdom always and everywhere. For if Jesus is who He says He is, to anchor ourselves to anything or anyone else is foolish.

Of the current United States Supreme Court justices, five are Catholic. One was raised Catholic and is now Episcopalian, and two are Jewish. The heavy Catholic concentration on the Court has raised the ire of some. They take exception thinking that there should be greater diversity amongst the judges on the Supreme Court. My frustration is, does their faith really matter that much? Catholics in the public square have

successfully separated their faith from public life. Some say that is a good thing, I find this troubling.

Not all Catholic justices think alike and certainly not with the mind of the Church. If that were the case, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Clarence Thomas, both Catholics, would be voting in unison. Instead, they are ideological opposites.

With all this as a backdrop, I read a line in an article that raised my irritation about the nominated Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney Barrett. It described that the problematic side of her faith was its "unusual intensity and character." That phrase stuck with me because, to me anyway, she was being labeled a fanatic for her deeply held Catholicism that is characterized as extreme and dangerous. Despite her razor-sharp intellect and the esteem she enjoys as a judge and a professor, a "serious" Catholic is now a sidelined one. At best, cultural Catholicism is the only acceptable Catholicism—you know, Christmas and Easter Catholics.

But how does cultural Catholicism make the world a better place? It is a neutered Catholicism that does not offend others. And if it is a generative Catholicism, it is best to keep it tucked safely within the walls of our church buildings where it will neither challenge nor offend. But to me, to quote Flannery O'Connor, "Well, if it's a symbol, to hell with it."

This column is not to canonize Amy Coney Barrett. In my opinion, some of her judicial decisions do not ring true with the mind of the Church. But the ones that do have made her a target for persecution. In that she has stepped forward for consideration, she has accepted the cross, and I respect her for it. I am praying for her this week. What a brave soul. We need more Catholics with that kind of bravery. Lord, make me one!

- Fr. Bru