

THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annunciation Catholic Church

Bogalusa, Louisiana

October 18, 2020

Weekly Mass Intentions

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

Sunday, October 18th
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, Bennie Saltaformaggio, Welfare of Newell Bush, Rosemary Marx, Francis and Freddie Carmadelle

10:30 AM

Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, October 20th 8:00AM

Lawrence Wille

Wednesday, October 21th 8:00AM

Lawrence Wille

Thursday, October 22nd 8:00AM

Lawrence Wille

Friday, October 23rd 8:00AM

Lawrence Wille,

Saturday, October 24th 4:00PM

Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Lawrence Wille, Rita Anderson, Welfare of Jerri Stewart, Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Jr., Welfare of Millie Underwood, Welfare of Sheryl Seroggo Sjelby, Patty Sue Stevenson and Camile White, David Arceneaux

Sunday, October 25th 8:30AM

Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Irma Lee Callender, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Linda Haaga, Welfare of Millie Underwood, Frank Montalbano and Family, Welfare of Newell Bush, Edward Ratcliff, Rodney Capo, Hazel Rayburn, Bennie Saltaformaggio, Welfare of Jerri Stewart

10:30AM

Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

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

“Boots”
Hartman”

Last Week's Collection

October 10th and 11th 2020

Loose-Checks & Cash	\$1,049.00
Envelopes	\$1,947.00
Total:	\$2,996.00

Budgeted funds needed to
operate: \$6,299.00

Amount under Weekly Budget:
\$3,303.00

Parish Maintenance Fund
\$2,024.00

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

The Forgotten Prayer of the Father

Dear Reader, before you read any further, I have to admit that I wrote this article primarily for the men who are fathers in our parish community. To the ladies in the parish, I promise, I'll write an article specifically for ya'll someday. – Fr. Bru

Tucked away in a seemingly boring part of the Bible, the Forgotten Prayer of 1 Chronicles 4:10 is an unexpected invitation for men to come home—to the family we have all desired, the Church and the Holy Trinity, and our true vocation as fathers. The so-called “Prayer of Jabez” is not the materialistic and shallow wish list it's often made out to be. In fact, it is a prayer of intercession, a powerful way to pray for your wife and children, your parish, and God's reign over the entire world.

The Forgotten Prayer is short, only one sentence with four parts, but for any father its message is powerful: You are not alone. You are heard. Your suffering is not meaningless. You are a father of a family—and you were made for God the Father, for his family.

1 Chronicles 4:10

**Oh that you would bless me
And enlarge my border,
And that your hand would be with me,
And that you would keep me from harm**

This is not just the private petition of a self-interested individual; this is a prayer for the universal Church, the prayer of Israel, the prayer of a father. It's a prayer for anyone who wants to live a story that's bigger than themselves. It is the Old Testament's prayer of patriarchs, the quintessential father's prayer. And it's a prayer every man should have in his back pocket.

The vocation to fatherhood is a vocation to prayer. Men are to pray without ceasing. And our prayers can change the lives of our wife and children forever. Prayer can do more than money, strategy, or hard work. It's a father's first and greatest work. As a father, it's my job to pray for my family. That being said, prayers are not magic spells. It's not a matter of just saying the right words and then suddenly our wife and children will be saved from all troubles and blessed with success. Just

look at the story of Israel! Even so, what we pray for matters. How we pray matters.

As men, our job is to pray that God would bless our wife and children, our parish and community. We are to

pray that he would be glorified in our common life together, and that everything we do would bring him glory. But how do we do that? One powerful answer is what I call the Forgotten Prayer, the prayer of 1 Chronicles 4:10.

Remember, the Forgotten Prayer was written during the old testament. It is therefore a kind of synopsis or paradigm of Israel's prayer life, the Forgotten Prayer anticipates the Our Father and the entire prayer life of the Church. That means it's a prayer for you and me today.

The Forgotten Prayer is a stake in the ground, a fence post... It helps a father see his family in light of the big picture. To pray this prayer is to claim this heart, this home, this woman, these kids, or this parish for Christ. It's a father's way of praying that God's kingdom would be established in his home and spread out across the world out from there, “on earth as it is in heaven.”

If you have a vocation to fatherhood, especially, I want to invite you to join me as together we learn how to pray with power and purpose! Our world is crowded with bad ideas about what it means to be blessed. But what does the Bible say about it? What does it mean to be “blessed”? And how can we truly live blessed lives? I want to suggest to you that Jabez's prayer shows us that when God changes your heart from looking inward to looking Godward, from selfishness to Kingdom generosity, every part of your life is changed—and opened up to abundant blessing. God made us to be happy, and the simple fact of the matter is that our greatest happiness is found in him.

Too often we tend to make a god out of whatever gives us the most comfort and pleasure: sex, power, romantic love, money, entertainment. Take a moment to think of all things you want. If God gave you everything you wanted, but didn't give you himself, where would you be? You would be in Hell. But if God took everything away and gave you only himself, where would you be? You would be in Heaven. The best gift God can give you is the gift of himself. As Saint Teresa of Avila put it, “Only God is sufficient.”

In this light, to be “blessed” by God is to be given everything that you need to live in right relationship with God and his family, the Church. In a fallen world and in the fallen flesh of Adam, this inevitably involves suffering and adversity. But when nailed to the crucifix, even your pain can be a source of incalculable joy, insofar as it draws you closer to God.

This is why as fathers, especially, to pray this prayer is to drive a stake in the ground. It's to say, in so many words, “This home is God's home.” It's to seek not only abundance and protection, but to have that blessings spread out from your home to the whole world!

