Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
www.smafathers.org

Local and Provincial superior:
Fr. Michael Moran, SMA.
If you invite one of our priests out to perform a sacramental function please make sure he is informed. 201-567-0450 x 218

Mass Schedule
Sundays
8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon
Weekdays & Holy Days
8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:45 am
Christmas & New Year's Day
8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

Confessions
Saturdays 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick
Contact Fr. Anbu Kumar
201-567-0450 Ext 204

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary
Every Wednesday at 11:00 am
Followed by Mass, Adoration and Benediction at 5:30 pm

The Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux
2nd Sundays after 12 pm Mass

Bible Reflection Group
Thursdays: 7:30 pm in the hall

Perpetual Mass Association
Office open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office
Theresa Hicks, Lay Associates
201-496-8394
Fr. Julien Esse, SMA Priesthood
201- 894-8611

SUNDAY COLLECTION: $886.
Thank you for your support.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please remember to support you parish as well.

There was a very good turn out for the celebration of Liberian independence day .

17th week in Ordinary time

Masses for the week of July 3—Aug. 5

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY:
Sun. to Sat.	8:00	Liv. And Dec. Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Jul. 30	10:00	Michael Neary+	Neary Family
	12:00	Severa Abrajano+	Crisologo & Abrajano Families
Mon. Jul. 31	9:30	Rev. Anthony De Maria, S.J.	
	11:45	Robert Doonan+	Susan Murphy
Tues. Aug. 1	9:30	Michael Giotta+	His mother
	11:45	Jae ho Pio Lee (Liv.)	Mother
Wed. Aug. 2	9:30	Frank and Bonnie+	Veronica McDonagh
	11:45	Victoria Ann Costa (Liv.)	Victoria Ann Costa
Thur. Aug. 3	9:45	Joseph Lee (Liv.)- birthday	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Lydia Ramirez+	Mely & Ben Ramirez
Fri. Aug. 4	9:30	Spec.Int. - Neill, Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Spec. Int. - Stoever, Mongiello Families	
Sat. Aug. 5	9:30	Spec. Int. - Neill, Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Thanksgiving	Rosanne

Today's Readings

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12 God offers Solomon a gift and is pleased when he chooses the gift of wisdom and discernment.

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30 God works in all things for good and intends us to be images of the Son.

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52 The kingdom of God is compared to a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price and a plentiful haul of fish.

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of $125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

Solomon's Option Prepares Us and Leads Us to Choose Wisely in Life

Jesus invites us to choose wisely in life and to prefer the kingdom of God above everything else. Sometimes, we wonder about the meaning of life and what it is all about. So, what is life all about? What is your answer to this question? My mum used to say always: "Life is like a box of chocolates; you're never sure what you're going to get". That is a simple illustration but it is so true, isn't it?

Life, indeed, is like a box of chocolates and you're never sure what you are going to get. You expect it to be sweet but you may discover it to be bitter. Sometimes it melts in your hand before it could melt in your mouth. And some chocolates, like fruitcakes, have some nuts in them.

A joke is told about a tour bus driver who had a bunch of senior citizens in his bus. In the cause of the tour a small old lady came up to him to offer him a small bag of peanuts, which he chewed with great delight. She came up again minutes later with another bag of peanuts. After a while, she repeated a third time with another bag.

So the bus driver asked why they were not eating the peanuts themselves. She replied: "we can't chew them because we have no teeth." The driver, who could not believe his ears, asked: "then why do you buy them?" She said: "we just love the chocolate coating on them, and we think that you might like the peanuts."

And so, life might be like a box of chocolates but you may have no idea where the peanuts came from. Yet, if we can enjoy the chocolate as well as munch the peanuts, then we are indeed happy. So life, actually, is all about happiness. Life is also all about the search for happiness.

Some search for happiness in striking the lottery. Some look for it in fast cars and living on the fast lane. Others seek for it in by living in big mansions, etc. And in the gospel parables of today, happiness is found in a hidden treasure and in a pearl of great value.

But the parables' images demonstrate a deeper reality and a deeper mystery, which is the kingdom of heaven. And the kingdom of heaven is not hidden somewhere out there that we must search for it. The kingdom of heaven is right here, and in fact it is within us. Blessed are we when we realize it.

Yes, the kingdom of heaven is happening around us and even in us. And the 2nd reading tells us that whatever happens turns to our good, turns to our happiness if we have love for God. Well, God's been whispering to our souls and been speaking to our hearts to tell us what life is all about and what happiness is all about.

"Ask what you would like me to give you," God said to Solomon; and the young king replied, "Give your servant a heart to discern between good and evil." That *wisdom* is the kind of substantial gift that we all need.

There is a pearl out there for everyone. And to gain that there is a price for everyone to pay. The price for that is detachment. To be able to move on from what we cherish without looking back with regret. Our dilemma, sometimes, is not that we can't find the pearl. The fact is that we're not willing to pay the price. May the Lord give us the courage to pay the price for the pearl. Amen!

Fr. Nelson Adjei Bediako, sma

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Joseph Mulheren. He passed away on Wednesday and was buried this gone Saturday. Our sympathies go out to Barbara and the whole Mulheren family. Joe was a Knight of Columbus and great supporter of the Mission.

Announcements:

Raffle tickets for the drawing on Dec. 2nd are now available. The ticket costs $5 and 1st prize is 2,200$ gift certificate from Liberty Travel and second prize is an iphone 7plus. So if you are looking to travel take a chance. Contact Ms. Paladino if you want more information.

We are still looking for readers for the Sunday and weekday masses.