



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

Rosary

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: 1,511.

Thank you for your support.

Come Lord Jesus



1st Week of Advent

Masses for the week of Dec. 3-9

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested by: |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sun.-Sat. | 8:00 | Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA | |
| Sun. DEC. 3 | 10:00 | Fr. Terry Doherty, SMA | Carmela Marchese |
| | 12:00 | Kirsten Joy Pacia (Liv) | Minene |
| Mon. Dec. 4 | 9:30 | Michael Giotta+ | his Mother |
| | 11:45 | Ernesto Ascrate+ | Erlinda Cortez |
| Tue. Dec. 5 | 9:30 | John & Marie Latino+ | Robert J. Latino |
| | 11:45 | Bea Hanley+ | Michael Murphy |
| Wed. Dec. 6 | 9:30 | Phil Buffa+ | Susan & Bob Iacullo |
| | 11:45 | Theresa Tietjen+ | Family |
| Thurs. Dec. 7 | 9:30 | Mary J. Mulheren+ | Barbara & Joe Mulheren |
| | 11:45 | Juliana Lee (Liv) Birthday | Thomas and Jessica Lee |
| Fri. Dec. 8 | 9:30 | Lena Sophia Youm (Liv) | Mom |
| | 11:45 | Jae ho Pio Lee (Liv) | Mother |
| Sat. Dec. 9 | 9:30 | Soo Kyung Anne Lee (Liv) | Mother |
| | 11:45 | Cuddihy, Bruno & New Families | Family |

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 A wayward people cry out in despair for God's presence, knowing that God is their God.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Paul gives thanks for all the graces bestowed upon us in Christ, who is faithful for ever.

Gospel Mark 13:33-37 Jesus reminds us of the need to be vigilant for we do not know when he will return.

ALTAR CANDLES DONATED IN MEMORY OF:

ELLA FAMILY

This Dec. 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation.

DANCE LESSONS

The ballroom and line dance lessons take place every Tuesday from 7:30pm to 9:30pm in the hall. Admission is \$5.



Gospel Teaching

In today's first reading Isaiah bemoans the way the Lord has seemingly abandoned the people as they have distanced themselves from God through their waywardness. Since returning from exile, the people have had a tough time and, forgetting God's kindness to them, have reverted to pagan practices. A people who have been shaped by the master potter feel as though, due to their unfaithfulness, they have been tossed into the waste bucket. Yet, despite their sense of distance from God, the prophet acknowledges a desire for the Lord's presence to surround them. The marvellous work of God's hands longs to feel that caress as God moulds, smooths and soothes them: "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down."

Jesus in the Gospel speaks of the need to be prepared for God's coming. Referring specifically to his second coming, Jesus urges hearers to be attentive and vigilant. In effect we're called to remind ourselves not to allow the divine potter to take his hands off us. If we do, it could be that we wobble and collapse. Staying awake spiritually is to ensure we remain on the potter's wheel, a place of safety. We can hear the words of Paul encouraging us in this venture, as he reminds us that the Lord will keep us steady and blameless until the last day, if we just let the Lord hold on to us.

As we begin our Advent season, the readings are an encouragement to us, even if they may seem quite stark. We're called to remember that God respects the choices we make and so, if we choose to distance ourselves from God, it becomes harder to hear God's voice. If we choose a path that obviously deviates from the one that God has set out for us, it can be difficult to see the signs pointing back to the right route. Advent is a wake-up call to bring us from potential slumber to a new alertness of the immediacy of God's presence. God is never distant from us. It's just that sometimes we don't allow God's closeness to be apparent to us. Advent can bring us back on track. Advent gives us the opportunity to be further shaped on the potter's wheel. God the potter will never discard us into the waste bucket, even though we do at times find ourselves out of shape, or with fractures opening up. Life and our choices do that to us.

Fr. Pat Kelly, SMA wishes to thank all those who attended his farewell celebration and who gave him cards, gifts and well wishes. He want to assure all the many friends he made during his stay here of his prayers of God's continued blessing on them and their families.

The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is universally celebrated on December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. It is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, celebrated worldwide.

By Pontifical designation and decree, it is the patronal feast day of Argentina, Brazil, Korea, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Spain, the United States and Uruguay. By royal decree, it is also designated by as the Patroness of Portugal. It is celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church as well as a few other closely related Protestant Christian churches.

Father George was opening his Christmas cards one December morning. Out of one the cards came a single sheet of paper on it was written only one word: 'Fool'. The following Sunday, in church, Father George announced to the assembled congregation, 'I have known many people who have written notes to me and forgotten to sign their names.

But this week I received a note from someone who signed his name and had forgotten to write a letter.'

ST. FRANCIS GIFT SHOP—BAKE & CHRISTMAS SALE - DEC. 1,2 & 3 AND DEC. 7, 8, 9, 10
FROM 10AM—3PM (253 Knickerbocker Rd. Tenafly, NJ 201-568-0478)