



Society of African Missions

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



Local Superior:

Fr. Anbu Kumar, SMA

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

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

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA
 201- 894-8611

Sunday Collection: \$1,103.00

Thank you for your support.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the week of APRIL 29—MAY 05, 2018

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. APR. 29	10:00	George Coleman+	Neary Family
	12:00	Eleanor Curry+	A Friend
Mon. APR. 30	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	James E Cronin+	John O'Connell
Tue. MAY. 01	9:30	Maureen Hamill+	Sister Catherine
	11:45	Joseph Abitante+	
Wed. MAY.02	9:30	JoAnn Di Paolo+	Martha Di Paolo
	11:45	Laura & Virgil Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. MAY. 03	9:30	Bill Moran	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	B & V McGowan (Living)	A Friend
Fri. MAY. 04	9:30	Special Intentions: Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions: Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. MAY. 05	9:30	Special Intentions: Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Living)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Families

Today's Readings

First Reading Acts 9:26-31

Saul's first attempt to join the disciples after his conversion.

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

Those who keep God's commandments live in God, and God lives in them.

Gospel John 15:1-8

In the imagery of the vine and branches we are given a beautiful depiction of the intimate relationship between the Father, Jesus and his followers. We can be confident of the Lord's continuing presence in the world.

**I AM THE
 VINE;
 YOU ARE THE
 BRANCHES.**

REFLECTION

*“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide **in** me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”*

The Old Testament often used the image of the vine and branches in reference to the relationship of God and the people of Israel. Perhaps this is why the writer of John feels the need to portray the relationship of the vine and the branches a little differently. He is writing for his time and addressing the issues that seem pressing.

Things have changed since the “days of the Old Testament”. The vine that gave enjoyment (wine), life and prosperity to the Israelites seems to have changed. Jesus’ teaching was about the Kingdom of God being NOW, ‘at hand’. Life was no longer seeking refreshment from the streams of Babylon, or shade from the cedars of Lebanon, or being anointed with the oil of gladness or even partaking of the fruit of the vine. In the mists of the suffering and struggles of the Israel community, Yahweh always provided refreshment and relief. Something has changed.

Now Jesus says, “I am the true vine” and needs to be understood in light of the world that was present at that time. There was conflict: the followers of John the Baptist still roamed the area and kept preaching that Jesus was less than John because he was baptized by John. The persecution that took place in the temple areas and the expelling of the followers of Jesus from the Temple raised many questions. Other prophets had taken the teachings of Jesus and began to make them their own. So what was true?

It has become necessary for the followers of Jesus to say, ‘He is the **true** vine’. Refreshment can be obtained by listening to His word and acting on it. There is a subtle change that has occurred. You do not reside or get nourishment from being on the vine. Your nourishment comes from being **IN** the vine. You are not just a follower of the “Prophet”, the “Messiah” or whatever other name could be ascribed to religious phenomena. You reside in Him. You Live in Him, you get your strength by being in Him. You and He are ONE. Think of the Words at the beginning of John Gospel. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* And this relationship He has with God He gives to us.

This fifth Sunday of Easter the gospel is reminding us to seek refreshment from the true vine. It is asking us to remain in Him and he **IN** us. It wants us to see ourselves as the Mystical Body and if we can be **IN** this Body we find it easy to understand the rest of Chapter 15 in John’s Gospel.

Fr Michael Moran, SMA

Thank you. - Last week’s Communion Luncheon was very well attended and enjoyable. Many thanks to the Guild and all who were involved in preparing and supporting the event. We are deeply grateful for your time, service and generosity.

Save the Date: May 26, 2018 , 7th Annual Filipino Festival “FLORES DE MAYO”.

See flyers for details.