



# Society of African Missions

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

## TWENTY– SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 02 – SEPTEMBER 08, 2018

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of SMA</b>	
Sun. SEP 02	10:00	Sheamus Feeney+ & Kevin Shanks	Mary Quinn & Family
	12:00	Pat & May Fahy (RIP)	Veronica McDonagh
Mon. SEP 03	9:30	In Cho Chung+	Maria Chung
	11:45	Ann O'Neill+	Winnie Grealish
Tue. SEP 04	9:30	Sean McCabe+	Catherine
	11:45	Joseph Jeen & Ancy George	Ancy George & Family
Wed. SEP 05	9:30	Hee Seo Rosalia Yoon (Liv)	Aurelia Jeong
	11:45	Eric Sarnar - (Birthday)	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. SEP 06	9:30	Jeffery, Christie, Dominick announcement for school	Tom Jose
	11:45	Alen Medic+	Martha Paladino
Fri. SEP 07	9:30	Special Intentions: Neill, Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions: Stoever, Mongiello Families	
Sat. SEP 08	9:30	Tom, Jose & Amala– Wedding Anniversary	Tom Jose
	11:45	Seung Kyu Thomas Aquinas Yoon (Liv)	Aurelia Jeong

**WELCOME BACK  
SMA CHOIR!**

**TODAY AFTER THE  
12 NOON MASS  
NOVENA TO  
SAINT LORENZO RUIZ  
JOIN US!**

## Today's Readings

### First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses rejoices at the great gift of the Law, which the Lord has given to his people, and urges them to keep his commandments.

### Second Reading James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27

St James insists that true religion involves not just words but actions like helping widows and orphans.

### Gospel Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

Jesus tells us to make sure we observe God's commandment and not just human traditions.

## Gospel Teaching

The readings we are given today seem to address this question. The first reading from Deuteronomy claims how wonderful the religious Law given to Israel is, while Jesus in the Gospel shows how harmful religion can be when it is misused. Can we resolve this paradox? If we look first at Deuteronomy we get there a sense of a deep appreciation of the Law that God had given them. The people had been in miserable slavery in Egypt and God had freed them. The Ten Commandments, given to them on Sinai, were seen as a precious gift and were a way of keeping them free so that they did not slip back into the slavery of idolatry. And the rituals of the Law helped them to belong as a community.

Jesus as a Jew respected God's Law. He made it clear he had not come to abolish it but to fulfil it. But today, when the Pharisees who were zealous for the Law criticised Jesus' disciples for not performing the washing rituals, he makes a fierce prophetic attack on the way religion can become bad. He quotes the prophet Isaiah to back him up. Worship can be just words covering up injustice. Religion then becomes hypocritical as it serves human interests and not the original commandments of God. Jesus insists that good religion comes from the heart. External rituals are useful but they remain superficial unless they come from the heart. And unless the heart is changed, then the destructive forces that come from within will make a person unclean.

## Application

For centuries Christians have had a religion that can provide both a powerful story and symbolic rituals by which we can introduce the next generation into our beliefs and values. Like the Jews, we recount the wonders of a loving God who has rescued us from slavery and taught us a Law that reflects the justice and compassion of God. In Jesus that Law comes to completion in the revelation of a love that expressed itself in the sacrifice of the cross. But Jesus himself warned that good religion can be perverted into bad. All the failings of the Pharisees in the Gospel can be our failings today. We can see all too easily how religion can be misused to produce violence and injustice.

Our faith can make sense of our world, and give us a purpose to live. Once we are aware how our religion can go wrong, we are still called by Christ to offer its story of good news to a world that seems to be without a better narrative. St James today describes what good religion is: "Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is like this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it." We may not convince some people by our beliefs, but if we witness to that kind of religion they may at least begin to think about it.

- The Living Word

**COME AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF FUN AT THE  
SMA GALA — CLINTON INN, Tenafly NJ**

**Friday, September 21, 2018 - 7:00pm**

**TICKETS AND RAFFLE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

**Call 201-567-0450 Ext 239**

