



Society of African Missions

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



**May you all have a happy and blessed
New Year 2019!**

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

Christmas & New Year's Day

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 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

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA

551-449-4357

Sunday Collections: \$1,348.00

Christmas Eve: **\$398.00**

Christmas Day: **\$3,805.00**

Thank you for your support.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 30, 2018 – JANUARY 05, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Dec. 30	10:00	Bill Moran+	Jinnie Moran
	12:00	Nora Murphy+	Winnie Grealish
Mon. Dec. 31	9:30	Special Intentions: Neil and Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Emilia Ambrocio+	Ben & Mely Ramirez
Tue. Jan. 01	9:30	Daesuk Thomas Lee+	Ingoo Yoon
New Year Day	11:45	Gretta Gribbin+	Bridget Walsh
Wed. Jan. 02	9:30	Jose Tom (Liv)	Jose Tom
	11:45	Clare Rockarts+	Martha Paladino
Thurs. Jan. 03	9:30	Thomas Joseph (Liv) & Amala Jose (Liv)	Jose Tom
	11:45	Maria Berarducci+	Emma Loopy & Family
Fri. Jan. 04	9:30	Jack Kenny+	Angela Hickey
	11:45	Special Intentions: Neil and Forgrave Families	
Sat. Jan. 05	9:30	Catherine Hamill+	Angela Hickey
	11:45	Dominic Jose (Liv) & Emily Thomas (Liv)	Jose Tom

Today's Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

Hannah longed for a child and, having pleaded with God, she fulfils her promise by dedicating him to God and a life of service.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

John reminds us that we are the children of God. We are to be confident in God's love for each one of us.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph have been to Jerusalem with Jesus but, instead of returning with them, Jesus remains in the Temple, talking to and asking questions of the elders.

Schedule

for New Year Celebrations

New Year's Eve Mass

Monday, December 31: 10:00pm

Refreshments after Mass
to welcome in the New Year.

New Year's Day Masses:

8:00am, 10:00am and 12 Noon

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph are frantically looking for Jesus, who seems to have disappeared. They have been to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover but on their return journey they notice that he is no longer with them. They discover him in the Temple talking to the elders, asking them questions and listening to them. Naturally his parents are relieved. Jesus doesn't really understand why they should have been worried. It might seem a strange activity to have stayed in the Temple with a group of much older people talking about matters of religion and faith but, at twelve, Jesus is in that liminal place in life when young people begin to emerge from being a child and start to move towards adulthood. It is a stage in life when the deeper questions of life are significant. Who am I? Who made me? Who am I meant to be? In staying behind, Jesus has given himself the space to ponder on these questions and seek the wisdom of those who can help him to explore them, guide him and allow him to grow more deeply in his relationship with God.

Application

At the heart of spirituality is this desire within the human person to satisfy a deeper longing. For many people, material possessions have lost their capacity to meet that need. People are more interested in having experiences. Helicopter trips, afternoon cream teas, even a walking trip with an alpaca are just some of the many experiences on offer, often given in place of a material gift. Common to all these experiences is that they involve sharing time with other people. They provide people with memories which can last for ever and they enable relationships to deepen.

Christian spirituality takes a different form. At its heart lies a process of spiritual formation which enables Christians to live an authentic and fulfilled life in the present world. As people of faith we are constantly being called into a deeper relationship with God. We respond to this by modelling our lives on Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. It sounds easy but, when we are engaged in busy and complex lives, it can be challenging to give it the time and commitment it requires. What today's Gospel shows us is that we do not need to do this alone. Jesus sought the help of the elders, but where do we go? Going to Mass is one of the most obvious places where we encounter God. When we gather on a Sunday and listen to the word of God, we can support one another in our desire to respond. Our parish community can hopefully play an important role in helping people of all ages to grow in their knowledge and love of God. In addition we may want to foster our human and spiritual development even further. We can do this in a variety of ways. For some it may lead to taking an academic route of study to learn more about Jesus or the Church. For others a prayerful avenue, perhaps by going on a retreat, may be more attractive or appropriate. Seeking the help of a spiritual guide can also help us to reflect upon and see where and how God is acting within our daily lives. We want to understand this because at the heart of us all lies a fundamental need, a thirst, a longing to be in tune with what really matters. The journey to determine how this thirst can be quenched will be different for each of us, but faith tells us that ultimately it is only God who can meet our deepest longing.

The Living Word

A special thank you to all those who donated to our Christmas Flowers and in memory of the following:

Doris & John Neville, Herbert & Alice Merritt, Virgil, Laura, & Helen Costa, Jeanette & Ernie Clemente; Ardy & Lucy Cutro, Gerard Patrick Lee; Arthur Tancio, Filomena Tancio, Pauleon Dumlaio, Pantaleon Dumlaio, Arsenio Dumlaio, Eugenia Bonarch Jablecirek, Francis Anthony Jablecirek, Cresencia Martinez, Luis Martinez, Guillerma Victorino, Teofilo Victorino, Mayang Martin, Jack Kenny, Isabel Manuel, Buenaventura Manuel, Manny Manuel, Annie Murphy, Mary & Al Pruzinsky, Pauline Schweitzer, Mary, Bernie, & Kaitlyn Brogan, Tom & Toni Powers, Margaret & Gerald Connolly, Consuelo M. Nacito, Anastacio G. Nacito, Family and Friend, Lena & Richard Averso, Irene & PVT Pat Fleming, Edna Ottid, Marianna McCarthy, Loretta & Harry Madden, Joseph Rivera, Fr. Geae, Fr Terry, SMA, Nicholas Turro, Joseph Lamont, Paul Kim & Elizabeth Lee, Fortunata Tababan, Ann, Jack McNamara, Jane Jennings, Betty and Howie Enders, Sal Blasco, Pat Santella, Mary and Jim Higgins, the Rooney, Bonacci, Bonilla, Ramirez, Pico, Lee, Foran, Colombo, Zagorda, Cantoli, Mallon, Walsh, Feulner, Jaeger, Neary and Twomey Families.

