



# Society of African Missions

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



## 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: \$1,347.00

Thank you for your support.

## THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Masses for the week of JUNE 24—JUNE 30, 2018

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of SMA</b>	
Sun. JUNE 24	10:00	Marie Jordan (Liv)	Patrick White
	12:00	Michele Simone+	Abbadessa Family
Mon. JUNE 25	9:30	Pat Neville+	Mary Butler Shannon
	11:45	<b>SMA-Founder's Day</b>	
Tue. JUNE 26	9:30	Ingoo Stephen Yoon (Liv)	Aurelia Jeong
	11:45	Jim Kurpiel+, 4years death Anniversary	Michelle Supper
Wed. JUNE 27	9:30	Karen Camperelli (Liv)	Dan Barry
	11:45	Rufino Ambrocio+	Ben & Mely Ramirez
Thurs. JUNE 28	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friends
	11:45	Pauline Schweitzer+	Paula Schweitzer
Fri. JUNE 29	9:30	Eileen Hopkins+	Mary Quinn and Family
	11:45	David Wilson+	Mary Fischbach
Sat. JUNE 30	9:30	Margaret Keegan+	Denise Landers
	11:45	Felisa Padaloy+ Augusto Rubio+	Linda Rubio

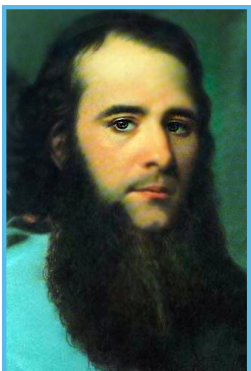
Local Superior:

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



Founder of the Society  
 of African Missions

The Society of African Missions (SMA) will be marking the 159<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our founder— Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac, on June 25th. He was among the first SMA missionaries to arrive in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa, early in 1859. Sadly, all but one died in a yellow fever epidemic. There will be a Mass at 11:45am. Please come and celebrate with us. After Mass, please join us at the courtyard. All are welcome!

### Today's Readings

*First Reading Isaiah 49:1-6*

*The servant of the Lord speaks of his role to be a light to the nations.*

*Second Reading Acts 13:22-26*

*Paul explains how in Jesus God has raised up one of David's descendants.*

*Gospel Luke 1:57-66, 80*

*The family and friends of John the Baptist celebrate his birth and wonder what he will become.*

## "...to the most abandoned peoples of Africa."

John's birth was miraculous. He was born of elderly parents who had never been able to have children. The angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah, a Levitical priest, that he would have a son—news that Zechariah received with incredulity. Gabriel said this about John: "He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He . . . will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord". True to the word of the Lord, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, gave birth to John. At the circumcision ceremony, Zechariah said about his son, "You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him".

John the Baptist's ministry grew in popularity, as recounted "People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. But John had a clear vision for what he was called to do. The road was not an easy one for him to prepare. Daily he faced doubters who did not share his enthusiasm for the coming Messiah. As I read and learn more and more about John the Baptist, I think of Bishop de Marion Bresillac, the founder of the Society of African Missions, who inspired my choice of missionary priesthood. This coming Monday, June 25, is his death anniversary. Very important day for every SMA. God selected John to be His special ambassador to proclaim His own coming. He selected Bishop de Marion Bresillac to be his special ambassador to the most abandoned in Africa.

During his 12 years in India, Brésillac served in many capacities: Curate at Salern, Superior of the minor seminary at Pondicherry; (This seminary later became as Petit Seminaire Higher Secondary School) Fr.Marion was made the Titular Bishop of Prusa and later he became the provicar of Coimbatore. His rise was swift, achieving the rank of bishop at age 29. Through it all, he cherished the desire to train Indian priests. He wanted to establish an indigenous clergy, with their own hierarchy, capable of taking on responsibility for the missions, with Europeans acting only as assistants. Bishop Brésillac found his progressive ideas were strongly resisted by many of his fellow missionaries. He was also distressed by many of the cultural realities he discovered in India, particularly the caste system, a practice that assigned people to strictly defined social classes of "desirables" and "undesirables". Brésillac felt it was the obligation of any Christian to reject a system that made outcasts of human beings. He was appalled that so many of his fellow priests did not agree.

They accepted this system as part of the culture of the people and opposed his democratic desire to train local clergy. Dismayed by this attitude and by the conflicts that the opposing views created within the community of missionaries, the young bishop eventually resigned his post and returned to Rome. Though deeply disappointed by the incident in India, Brésillac was undaunted in his missionary goals. While in Rome he conceived his desire to bring the Gospel to "the most abandoned peoples of Africa." With the approval of the Holy See, he founded the Society of African Missions (Société des Missions Africaines, in French) (SMA Fathers) on December 8, 1856 in Lyon, France. He spent the next two years recruiting and training his new missionaries. In 1858, the first SMA missionaries (priests and brothers) set out for what was the newly created Vicariate Apostolic of Sierra Leone in western Africa.

St John the Baptist pray for us!

Servant of God Bishop Marion de Bresillac Pray for us!

-Fr Julien Esse, SMA

### SAVE THE DATES:

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**, Wednesday, July 4th. Barbecue  
**SMA GALA NIGHT**, Friday, September 21. See flyers for details.

### CHAPEL RENOVATION

**NEXT WEEK** will begin repairs in our chapel.  
The carpet and pad kneelers will be replaced.  
We apologize for any inconvenience.