



Society of African Missions

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



Administration:

Fr Ranees Anbukumar,
 Provincial Superior
 Fr Dermot Roache,
 Vice-Provincial
 Fr Richard Angolio,
 Councillor

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

African Art Museum

Open daily. Contact:

Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Deacon Michael Bova

201-567-0450 Ext. 207

Sunday Collections: \$1,295.00

Thank you for your support.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of AUGUST 11–AUGUST 17

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Aug. 11	10:00	Noreen Sundel+	Diane & Mike Bruno
	12:00	Gino Pico+	Sister & Nephew
Mon. Aug. 12	9:30	Bernard McGowan+	Gerald McGowan
	11:45	Oresti Gjini (Liv.)	
Tue. Aug. 13	9:30	Peter McGowan+	Gerald McGowan
	11:45	Ralph Wittnauer+	Mae Kenny
Wed. Aug. 14	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	Victoria Ann Costa (Liv.)	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Aug. 15	9:30	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughter
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Fri. Aug. 16	9:30	Angela McCabe (Liv.)	Sister
	11:45	John Loughlin+	Vickie Kapal
Sat. Aug. 17	9:30	Eileen Neary+	James Neary
	11:45	Angel Rubio+	Linda Rubio

Today's Readings

First Reading Wisdom 18:6-9

The people expected the virtuous to be saved and their enemies to be punished.

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-2. 8-19

It was faith in God's promises that enabled Abraham to leave his home in search of a new city founded, designed and built by God.

Gospel Luke 12:32-48

Faithful servants are ready for the master's return.

PLEASE, SUPPORT US...

SMA ANNUAL GALA

Friday, September 27, 2019

The Clinton Inn—Tenafly
TICKETS AVAILABLE

call (201) 567-0450

“See that you are dressed for action”

Illustration

We sometimes hear stories of dramatic rescues of people in life-threatening situations. In July 2018, a team of young Thai footballers were trapped in a flooded cave and were only rescued after many days of careful planning and daring underwater manoeuvres by skilful divers. The boys and their coach hadn't expected to be trapped by the flood waters caused by the monsoons. Similarly, many people go out walking in the mountains, or swimming in the sea, without expecting anything untoward to happen to them. Often they are totally unprepared for changes in the weather, which can transform gentle exercise into a terrifying ordeal both for them and those who set out to rescue them. Sometimes they are lucky, but on many occasions there is a tragic outcome; and the experts warn us to make adequate preparations, to wear appropriate clothing, to listen to advice from those in the know: to be prepared.

Gospel Teaching

Such is the recommendation of Jesus in today's Gospel: “See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.” However, this involves more than watching the weather forecast and making sure we have sturdy walking shoes; it has to do with faith. Today we are given the example of Abraham, who set out in search of a new life, a new family, in a new land. We have no idea what preparations he made for his journey, except that he went in response to a call from God. When everything seemed to be stacked against him, Abraham put his trust in God and kept going. It is the same story with the family of Abraham at a later stage in the history of God's people. They made a covenant with God, believing that the God of their ancestors would save the virtuous and punish their enemies.

And in the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples that, while God the Father has fulfilled his promises by giving them the kingdom, they still have to have the right attitude: faith to keep going; not allowing themselves to be bogged down in the material treasures of this world, but always focusing on the everlasting treasure of heaven. He gives them the example of a faithful servant who is always at his duties while waiting for the master's return.

Application

So what does it mean for us to walk by faith today? If the example of our ancestors in faith is anything to go by, we are in a similar situation. St Luke is writing his Gospel for a community of new Christians who are expecting the return of Jesus at any time. But it hasn't happened yet and their natural tendency is to fall back into well-established patterns of behaviour. When we expect something to happen imminently, it tends to sharpen our focus, whereas the routine of every day encourages us into taking things more easily. If we had a more pressing sense of the Lord's return, wouldn't we be more fervent in our prayer, in our response to our duties, more sensitive to the needs of the world around us? But, as it is, many of us do just as much as we feel necessary to keep us in touch with God and the Church. We respond to the various appeals for our charity with an ever-increasing sense of detachment, and, little by little, we find our life filling up with things that we think are more important or interesting than a relationship with a God who seems to us more and more distant from our daily experience of life.

The challenge of Jesus today reminds us of this ever-present tendency to let our faith drift. We have been entrusted with the great treasure of our faith. It is not simply a personal gift for us to take or leave. It brings with it a responsibility for the generations that follow us. Because Abraham believed, God was able to establish his family of faith. Because of people like Moses and the prophets, this faith prepared for the coming of Christ. Because of the faith of the disciples, we have been able to receive the Good News, the sacraments, the promise of eternal life. Now it is our turn not only to receive but to share what we have received, and we do this first of all by living a life of love and service with and for others. So are you dressed and ready for action, or are you just waiting for the storms of this life to surprise and overwhelm you?

The Living Word

Knights of Columbus St. John's Council #1345

Poker Tournament – August 17th

Join us for the Twin Boro Columbian Club's Premier Fundraiser to help support the club's facilities and its charitable works. The \$100 buy-in includes SUMMER THEMED buffet of chicken fingers, hot dogs, fries, and salad throughout the evening, tap beer, wine, soda, coffee, and tournament entry. Check In and buffet at 6PM, tournament starts at 7PM. Non-players \$30pp. CHIP BONUS EXTENDED! RSVP by August 15th and get a 500 Chip Bonus. Call or text Ken A. at 1-516-220-9333 or email kofc1345reservations@gmail.com to RSVP.