



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: \$848.00

Thank you for your support.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 1–SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Sept. 1	10:00	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	
	12:00	JoJo Aquino+ Elma Bustof+	Linda Rubio
Mon. Sept. 2	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Dec. Memb of Guiney & McCarthy Families	
Tue. Sept. 3	9:30	Nuala Henry+	Breda/Benny Walsh
	11:45	Jack K Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Wed. Sept. 4	9:30	Sean McCabe+	Sister in Law
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Sept. 5	9:30	Roland Dumlao+	Breda/Benny Walsh
	11:45	Muriel Gawlik+	
Fri. Sept. 6	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Lukchis Families	
Sat. Sept. 7	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intention April Medical Diagnoses Successful	Richard Kane

Today's Readings

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20. 28-29

Humility is the key to finding favour with God.

Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-19. 22-24

In Christ we are connected to the heavenly Jerusalem, becoming citizens through his blood.

Gospel Luke 14:1. 7-14

Jesus points out to the Pharisees that true humility is the way to be noticed and properly respected.

“Repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.”

Illustration

It was in 1858, at the age of fourteen, that Bernadette Soubirous was collecting firewood near the grotto at Massabielle, not far from her home in Lourdes. It was here that she witnessed the first apparition of a beautiful lady. This lady, who would later reveal herself as “the Immaculate Conception”, asked Bernadette to come and visit the grotto every day for fifteen days. Bernadette, at this time, did not know who the lady was, she just faithfully came back each day to meet her. The lady, whom we now know to be the Mother of God, gave Bernadette instructions to pass on to the local clergy about building a church over a healing spring that had been uncovered at the grotto. In spite of great incredulity and attempts to discredit her, Bernadette persisted in relaying those messages. Even though she faced great opposition and accusations of madness, Bernadette remained faithful to all she had seen and heard. The shrine at Lourdes is now visited by millions of pilgrims every year.

Bernadette’s family were poor. Following a failed business venture, the family found themselves living in a one-room dwelling that had previously been a prison, called “the dungeon”. Bernadette was a sickly child, suffering from digestive and respiratory problems. She was uneducated. To all intents and purposes she had absolutely nothing going for her. However, she had been instilled with faith. Her incorrupt body now lies in a beautiful glass casket in Nevers, where people can wonder about what her eyes saw, and dwell on the example she gave. She is now receiving her reward in heaven, constantly in the presence of God and interceding for us. St Bernadette is a truly inspiring model of faith and humility. The humble one has been exalted.

Gospel Teaching

Today Jesus tells a parable in order to get through to the Pharisees about the need for true humility. He has noticed their tendency to take the places of honour and sees this as symptomatic of their pride – their belief that they are more important than everyone else. The name “Pharisee” means “separated one”, and they do see themselves as an elite group. The parable is painful to hear because it speaks of the embarrassment that comes when we find our pride being pricked. How uncomfortable it would be to find ourselves being escorted from the higher to the lower seats at a banquet.

Also, when Jesus speaks of inviting poor people to a meal, rather than family, he wants to make it clear that a focus on personal status must not get in the way of the things we do. It is all too easy to entertain others because, in the end, all we want to do is to seek to look good in their eyes. By doing this, we are really only entertaining ourselves. Jesus wants us to shift our focus away from ourselves. In this way we will be truly exalted in the eyes of God and others, just as we hear in today’s first reading.

Application

We have all heard the saying that “pride comes before a fall”. This is a biblical expression, with the book of Proverbs carrying this very warning. Perhaps we have allowed ourselves a wry smile when we have seen this truth played out in the lives of others. There is something satisfying in seeing someone who is all puffed up and haughty taken down a peg or two, we think. Pride can be very subtle, though. Sometimes we are not aware of the effect it is having in our lives. When we focus on the faults of others and not our own, pride may be at the root. When we are more interested in how other people perceive us than we are about how God views us with tender love, that could be pride too. When we are desperate for attention and respect and the adulation of others, that is surely pride. When we are presumptuous before God, rather than approaching God with fear and trembling, that has to be pride too.

Jesus gives us a concrete parable about pride in today’s Gospel but he surely wants us to go deeper, exploring the nuances of this in our lives. For, in rooting out pride from our hearts and growing in humility, we will be allowing God to be exalted in us and through us.

The Living Word

SMA ANNUAL GALA Friday, September 27, 2019 The Clinton Inn—Tenafly
call (201) 567-0450 for more information.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE