



Society of African Missions

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



Administration:

Fr Ranees Anbukumar Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior
 Fr Dermot Roache,
 Vice-Provincial
 Fr Richard Angolio Mwisheni,
 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. Dermot Roache

201-567-0450 Ext. 212

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

Fr. Michael Bova

201-567-0450 Ext. 207

Sunday Collections: \$1,390.00

Thank you for your support.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 22–SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Sept. 22	10:00	Charina Bautista, Arcenia Padaloy (Liv.) (Healing)	Linda Rubio
	12:00	Jack Kenny+ (First Anniversary)	Mae & Family
Mon. Sept. 23	9:30	Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Conrado & Dolores Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Tue. Sept. 24	9:30	Harry Adams+	Marisa Pastore
	11:45	Cesar & Jann Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Wed. Sept. 25	9:30	Jonas Tolentino+	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Edilberto & Amparo Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Thurs. Sept. 26	9:30	Happy Birthday George T. Neill (Liv.)	
	11:45	Theresa & Michael Martin+	John Tietjen
Fri. Sept. 27	9:30	Pauline & Vincent Braganca (Liv.)	Juliana De Souza
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	Lawler Family
Sat. Sept. 28	9:30	Paul Di Paolo+	Martha Di Paolo
	11:45	Janeth Aberde (Liv.)	Rosanne

Today's Readings *First Reading* Amos 8:4-7

Liturgy is not something to get over with. It is the point of living.

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8 *Our opinion about leaders is worth so much less than our prayers for them.*

Gospel Luke 16:1-13 *The unjust steward is driven by his own self-interest, but this does not fool his master.*

THE SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS

*Cordially invites you to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr Michael Moran, SMA
 Sunday, October 6th, 2019 -12 Noon - at the Mission, 23 Bliss Ave, Tenafly, NJ 07670
 followed by a "Friendship Gathering"*

“How much do you owe my master?”

Illustration

A few years before the great global financial crisis began in 2008, a man who worked in the insurance trade was explaining to his friend how when they insured a ship, the company often could not actually afford to pay out, so that company would take out insurance itself for the possible loss, with another company. Sometimes, he said, you would find that this company had also taken out insurance, in case it was asked to pay out. The friend asked what seemed an obvious question: “Who is insuring the ship, then?” The man had to stop and think about this for a moment, and then said, “That’s a good question.”

Some years after the collapse of 2008, his friend reminded him of this conversation. The man had forgotten it, but he did say that analysis of some companies had shown that they were relying on other companies to pay out, who themselves relied on other companies. Yet it turned out that this could be circular: company A is insured with company B, which is insured with company C, and so on till you come to a company that is itself insured with company A. We are, in effect, living in a world of never-ending debt.

Gospel Teaching

So in fact the unjust steward in today’s Gospel parable is, perhaps, on to something, because one solution to the problem of debt is to let people off with their own debt. But the steward does it for unjust reasons, seeking his own benefit. However, remember that all Jesus’ parables are about God. To the question, “How much do you owe my master?” — if the master is, in fact, God — the answer is, quite simply, “Everything”.

We owe everything to God; not just our life, our existence, but the redemption we are offered in Christ and the promise of eternal happiness. If it were a matter of justice, there could be no possibility of us ever being able to pay off our debts. The saints and the angels joyously live in eternal debt to God, because God is the giver and we — all of us who are part of God’s creation — are the receivers. Only pride would make us resent this undeniable truth. It was through pride, and pride alone, that the bad angels fell. Yet it is also true that, because God became incarnate in Jesus Christ, we are allowed to share in the redemption of the world. This is not because God needs us to do it, nor is it because we need to do it. We could perfectly well be redeemed by a simple act of God’s mercy. Yet God has decided to give us the greater gift of allowing us to act as givers ourselves. It is a bit like parents giving their children money so that the children can buy them presents.

The unjust steward abuses his master’s money, driven by his own self-interest. Yet it is mercy that is the wealth of God that we are to share with others; God is “generous with his mercy”, or, in some translations, “rich in mercy”, as St Paul tells the Ephesians. The Lord’s Prayer speaks of debts as well as sin, because sin is a kind of debt. Yet it is a debt we have no claim on. We forgive the debt of other people’s sins against us, because we are in such an enormous debt to God ourselves.

Application

It is not the function of the Church to solve financial problems. Often there are complex reasons behind a financial crisis, which require a great deal of thought and discussion to resolve. Yet at the same time there are also, often enough, simple reasons behind the economic turmoil: greed, dishonesty, pride. Such qualities are very much the concern of the Church. They are sins of the heart.

It is only grace that can resolve the knots which those sins make in people’s lives, and only grace can offer the mercy that God has asked us to share with all God’s people. Merciful people cut the knot, open the door, lead the way forwards and bring us to heaven. Or, to put it another way, the best kind of economy is an economy of giving, and the best kind of giving is forgiving.

The Living Word

Knights of Columbus St. John's Council **LAST CHANCE** to get your reservations in for Italian Night on September 28, 2019 at 7 pm. The evening will consist of an authentic Italian family style meal. \$40 per person. Call or text Ken A. at 1-516-220-9333 or email KofC1345reservations@gmail.com to RSVP.