



# 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

### 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

Thank you for your support.

### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Dermot Roache,**  
House Superior

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD** **Masses for the week of APRIL 5 — APRIL 11, 2020**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. April 5	10:00	Sung Choi, Thomas & Jessica Families (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	12:00	Sal & Gino Pico+	Sister & Nephew
Mon. April 6	9:30	Oat Conway+	Breda & Benny Walsh
	11:45	Joan Nakimuli+	Robinah
Tue. April 7	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Wed. April 8	9:30	Carmelo Gonzalez+	Ben & Mely Ramirez
	11:45	Virgil Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Thur. April 9			<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b><u>Please note</u></b> that the Mass Intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.</p> </div>
Fri. April 10			
Sat. April 11			

### **Today's Readings**

*First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7 The first of four enigmatic songs in Isaiah about the anonymous Servant of the Lord. These give a wonderful backdrop to the passion and death of Jesus.*

*Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11 Paul quotes what is thought to have been a song sung in the early Christian communities: powerful words echoed in the Gospel acclamation.*

*Gospel Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 Matthew's is the longest of the Gospel passion narratives. It includes features not found in other versions, including Pontius Pilate washing his hands, Pilate's wife, the earthquake and more.*

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross:** The Franciscan Sisters in Tenafly will not be hosting the Outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday due to the Corona Virus outbreak. We ask that no one come to the property on Good Friday because we want to keep the Sisters and all others safe. Thank you.

## **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Palm Sunday creates a contrast of experiences and emotions. Imagine the week begins with the story of Jesus being triumphantly welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation crying out “Hosanna in the Highest!” acknowledging Jesus as King and honoring Him accordingly.

But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today’s readings. The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And with that, “Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.” At that moment the entire congregation kneels in silence as we ponder the reality of Christ’s death.

In less than a week look at how people and the situation changed for Jesus, His family, friends and consequently the world! *We also just witnessed our world change forever in a matter of a week or so!* So the drama in our lives right now cannot be taken lightly! Let’s delve deeper: What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered into Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death?

The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect: the Father willed it. The Father by His permissive will, allowed it that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand. At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross. But He didn’t. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and rejection He received. And He didn’t do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

Why would He do such a thing? Because in the Father’s perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose. God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes and on our bodies as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom and love of God. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost.

More than ever with this pandemic darkening us, we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. I’m not being soft either but real. There is no hardship, no burden and no cross that can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross. **Hope never disappoints!!**

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known. Where are we right now with God? Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this pandemic crisis, and the crisis of the soul for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice.

**Don’t look at the storm (pandemic) but rather keep your eyes on the cross!**

*Jesus, I trust in You.*

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA