



Society of African Missions

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



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior
Fr Dermot Roache,
 House Superior

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

Sunday Collection: \$493

Thank you for your support.
 Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of August 23 — August 29, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 23	10:00	Susan McKay+	
	11:45	Joan Naida+	Diane & Mike Bruno
Mon. Aug. 24	9:30	Fr Daniel Lynch, SMA+	Vincent & Mary Ann Pruzinsky
	11:45	Francis Xavier Kabanda+	D'Souza Family
Tue. Aug. 25	9:30	Rose & Joseph Abitante Sr. +	
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy & Family+	
Wed. Aug. 26	9:30	Kim M. Neill—Happy Birthday (Liv.)	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny and Family
Thurs. Aug. 27	9:30	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Francis D'Souza+	D'Souza Family
Fri. Aug. 28	9:30	Marianna McCarthy+	Millie and Larry Fleming
	11:45	Ann Peltier Broaddus+ Joseph Kurpiel Jr & Sr+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Aug. 29	9:30	Maria R Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Rufino Ambrocio+	Ben & Mely Ramirez

Please note that the Mass Intentions are being honored in private by
 our Priests.

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

The Lord passes authority from one servant to another.

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

Paul writes of the depth of God's wisdom.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ, and Jesus gives him the keys of the kingdom.

But who do you say that I am?

In today's gospel, Peter answers Jesus' question (Who do you say that I am?) with the statement that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus goes on to say that it is through my heavenly Father that you have come to this. It is a wonderful moment for Peter in correctly identifying Jesus' true identity. Previous to this, he and the disciples had seen Jesus feed the 5000, walk on water, calm the storms, and exercise demons. Coupled with his amazing teaching and preaching Peter was the first disciple to independently claim that Jesus is the Son of God. However, did Peter realize what he was saying? Probably not as immediately after Peter's statement Jesus tells the disciples that he will suffer greatly at the hands of the chief priests, elders, and scribes be put to death and then be raised up on the third day. This was not the type of Messiah that Peter envisioned and Peter let Jesus know that. We are all familiar with Jesus' response to Peter, "Get behind me you Satan."

In life, we tend to look at things the way human beings see things, not the way God sees things, which is just human nature. However, in our pilgrimage back to God, back to heaven, as part of our ongoing conversion, we have to begin to see things as God sees them and not through our own selfish angles. The Passion of Jesus was something that the Father wanted him to go through, that he had to go through. Out of obedience to the Father, Jesus embraced the Cross. After all, as Fulton Sheen often stated, there is no Easter Sunday without a Good Friday. St. Paul also told us that there is no crown without a Cross. Christianity is a religion of joy. However, there will also be crosses in our life; they are the vehicle for us to get to heaven. In the crosses that all of us will carry, it is important to realize that we are not alone. We have a loving savior in Jesus who understands our pain, our needs and our suffering. We have a loving spiritual mother who wants to comfort us in our despair just as she comforted Jesus in his darkest moments on earth.

There is a deeply personal answer for each of us in that question of "Who do you say that I am?" Yes we know that he is our savior, the Son of the living God our faith tells us that. But have you thought of him as your friend? Do you speak to him with the intimacy of the Apostles? We know that Jesus thirsts for our love. He thirsted for our love on the Cross over 2000 years ago and he thirsts for our love just as much now. St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta wrote that understanding Jesus' statement, "I thirst" means much more than Jesus telling us that he loves us. It involves an understanding of who he wants us to be for him and who he wants to be for us. This involves a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. I encourage everyone to reflect on what is keeping us from entering into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Is it a clinging to material things? Do our personal wounds that have hurt us lead to us putting Jesus at arm's length? Let us this Sunday meditate on who Jesus is to us and who we would like him to be for us. Who do you say that he is?

Fr Michael Bova, SMA