



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
 11:45 am
Weekdays & Holy Days
 11:45 am

Confessions

By appointment. Contact
 Fr Dermot Roache 201-567-0450 Ext 212

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache
 201-567-0450 Ext. 212

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA
 551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$2,522
 Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of September 27 — October 3, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 27	10:00	Memory of Joseph Choi+	Sung Choi Family
	11:45	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
Mon. Sept. 28	9:30	Paul DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
	11:45	Janeth Aberde (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
Tue. Sept. 29	9:30	Happy Birthday (Liv.) Robert J. Forgrave	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. Sept. 30	9:30	Theresa Corcoran+ 5 th Anniversary	Diane & Mike Bruno
	11:45	Patricia Bain+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Oct. 1	9:30	Rosemary Dalman Murphy (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
	11:45	Rosario Ambulo+	Rosanne Ambulo
Fri. Oct. 2	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Int. Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. Oct. 3	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Joseph Abitante+	

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

Today's Readings: *First Reading* Ezekiel 18:25-28

When sinners renounce their sin, then they will live.

***Second Reading* Philippians 2:1-11**

The incarnate Son empties himself of his majesty to become human.

***Gospel* Matthew 21:28-32**

The tax collectors and sinners respond, but not the chief priests and elders.

“In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.”

Illustration

Tom Holland is a popular English historian. In his adolescence, he was a lukewarm Christian who preferred the stories about Romans and Greeks to those of Israel and the early Christians. He wrote bestselling books about Julius Caesar and Alexander. In a 2019 book called Dominion he recalls that after twenty years of study of the ancient world he found their values alien. He found them callous and cruel; they showed a complete lack of any sense that those who were poor and weak might have the slightest intrinsic value. He came to realise that his deepest values and those of Western society had been inherited from Christianity; and that at the heart of those values was the cross. The Greeks could accept that a mighty emperor might become divine but they were outraged by the claim that a criminal tortured to death on a cross might reveal the glory of the creator of the universe. And that this Jewish outcast might be raised to life in the resurrection only added to their horror and challenged their basic values. It made God seem closer to those who were weak than those who were mighty. It was a scandal.

St Paul was also scandalised by this audacious claim of a crucified saviour and was determined to persecute this blaspheming sect, the follower of Jesus Christ. And yet years later St Paul was to write, “to shame what is strong... [God] chose what is weak”. How did he change his views?

Gospel Teaching

On his way to Damascus, Paul, the zealous Pharisee, encountered the risen and crucified Christ. He had to choose: either the Jewish law or the risen Lord. Paul was overwhelmed by God’s grace and turned to Christ. He had to rethink all his views. He understood now that the God who had freed Moses from slavery in Egypt and brought the Jews out of their prison of exile had gone even further and been willing in Jesus, God’s Son, to suffer the degrading death of the cross. It blew Paul’s mind that God could reveal such amazing love.

And instead of being ashamed of the cross, he puts it in the centre of his Gospel. When he writes to his congregation at Philippi in today’s second reading he wants to touch their hearts to make them more loving to each other. How can he change them? He recites a beautiful hymn, which tells the story of Jesus’ divine love: how Jesus did not cling to his status as divine Son but in the incarnation humbly took on our human condition and was willing to face death. And not just any death but the terrible punishment meted out to slaves – crucifixion. Jesus plumbed the depths of human suffering, and his Father answered his prayer by raising him up to eternal life so that the whole of creation recognised him as Lord. Paul tells his congregation to steep themselves in this story so that their hearts are touched by this divine love, and they imitate Jesus and think like him.

The Living Word

NOTICE: My dear friends of the SMA, Blessings and every good wish to you!

Our SMA Mission in the work of *primary evangelization* is to bring others to Jesus in a “hands on” manner. It involves direct interaction with people.

It is widely known that we thrive on this interaction - it is also known that we also enjoy our social gatherings and most especially the annual gala!

During this time of social distancing because of Covid our “annual gala,” which is one of our main fundraisers that keeps the operations of the SMA missions active, cannot occur. Visit our website at www.smafathers.org and go to Blogs - USA. I truly hope you will take time to watch the video posted there, reflect on and consider helping us. You can send a check made out to SMA Fathers—memo: Gala time.

As always we thank you for your support, love, friendship and prayers. Be assured of our continued prayers for each and everyone of you. Thank you and God bless you.

Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA