



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:

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of November 29, - December 5, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 29	10:00	Mary Laird+	Friend
	12:00	Maria R Valdes+	Friend
Mon. Nov. 30	9:30	Benjamin Ramirez Sr+	Ben & Mely Ramirez
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	Lawler Family
Tue. Dec. 1	9:30	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Judy Kelly+	Mary Ann Pruzinsky
Wed. Dec. 2	9:30	Don Scheffler+	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Mauricia Bontuyen+	Family
Thurs. Dec. 3	9:30	Ernesto Ascrate (liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Lutgardo Atienza+ Esther Atienza+	Family
Fri. Dec. 4	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. Dec. 5	9:30	Paddy & Margaret Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	11:45	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

The prophet prays that God would tear open the heavens and come down.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

St Paul prays that his community will be open to God's Spirit as they await the coming of Christ.

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Jesus tells his disciples to stay awake as they await the return of their master.

“So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.”

Illustration

A 2010 novel by Emma Donoghue has the brief title of Room. It tells the story of a mother who is imprisoned in a garden shed together with her young son, Jack. The boy has always lived in the shed and has experienced the outside world only through a small skylight and on a TV screen. When his mother tells him that there is a whole wonderful world outside the shed he does not believe her. He feels safe in the confined space of the room and is afraid of change. But finally the boy escapes and discovers the beauty and immensity of this larger world.

What is the point of this image which the novel gives us? It is a way of helping us to understand Advent, which is about the coming of Christ. The problem is that Advent is often imprisoned in the world of shopping and the commercial build-up to Christmas. Recorded carols and office parties anticipate the feast but do not provide any room to prepare for the real significance of the coming of Mary’s boy child in Bethlehem. So each year on the first Sunday of Advent the Church calls us out of the narrow protected world where we are reluctant to change into the wider world of God’s coming.

Gospel Teaching

Today the coming of the Christ child at Christmas is set against the context of the final coming. We take up the theme of last Sunday, where we encountered Christ as the majestic king enthroned in heaven, passing a last judgement on his creation. Today we are reminded that the child in the manger will not be just another Christmas baby but the Word made flesh. He is the Son of God, creator of the world, who has humbled himself to be human. And he is the Son of Man who will come in glory on the clouds of heaven to call the whole of his creation to account. We miss the significance of all that because we prefer to slumber. Like Israel before us, we prefer to stay in our comfort zone, live with our sins, and hope that God will get off our backs and go away. It is at this point that we hear the voice of Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent.

In Advent we relive the prophecies of the Old Testament as they point forward to the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah is the most eloquent of these voices. He tells us that the worst possible thing for us is for God to leave us alone. When we are left alone we wander around lost and our hearts harden. We are withered like autumn leaves blown away by the wind. Isaiah turns to God and begs, “Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down”, asking God to break into our boxed-in world, which is closed in on itself and needs not just consumer satisfaction but the transcendent mystery of a cosmic God who enters into God’s own creation and takes the form of a baby.

The Living Word

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, December 5, 2020 - 8pm

GOD’S MERCY IS HERE!

MASS INTENTION BOOK: The book for announced Masses is open.