



# 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  
 10:00 am; 12 noon  
Weekdays & Holy Days  
 11:45 am  
Christmas & New Year's Day  
 10:00 am; 12 noon

## 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: \$805  
 Thank you for your support.

Please remember to  
 support your local  
 parishes.

## **Administration:**

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of December 13, - December 19, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Dec. 13	10:00	Robert H. Jaeger+	Kathleen Jaeger
	12:00	Janina Mojak+	Richard & Lydia
Mon. Dec. 14	9:30	Tim Joyce+	Michael Murphy
	11:45	Lucy Bungiorno+	
Tue. Dec. 15	9:30	Conrad, Arturo & Cesar Maglikian+	Luz M.D.
	11:45	Doris & John Neville+	Neville Family
Wed. Dec. 16	9:30	Thanksgiving Ron. Mickee Pacia & Family	Minene Pacia
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Dec. 17	9:30	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Meliam Gonzales (Liv.) Thanksgiving	Ben & Mely Ramirez
Fri. Dec. 18	9:30	Theresa Tietjen+	Family
	11:45	Maureen Portmann+ (4 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) Peltier Family+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Dec. 19	9:30	Frank & Lucy Rincaks+	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	Lawler Family

## **Today's Readings:**

**First Reading** *Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*

*When humanity truly flourishes, the earth flourishes.*

**Second Reading** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*Human beings need to pray, like they need to eat and drink.*

**Gospel** *John 1:6-8. 19-28*

*We can say what God is not, we can say what the Christ is not, but it is God who reveals God to us, first in the humanity of Christ and finally in the vision of his Godhead.*

## Rejoice in the Lord always!

I remember in an Easter hymn that we used to sing in my home parish Church that had a vibrant melody and a catchy overlapping echo to it. It was composed to the words of St. Paul: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.* That was an Easter hymn but why now for Advent? In essence, they are intimately linked.

Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' which means 'Joy' or Rejoice'. It was named after St. Paul's advice and encouragement to the community in Philippi and Thessaloniki. Joy and gratitude is the central message of our readings and prayers this Sunday, and indeed the whole of Advent and the celebration of Christ. The Easter joy of Christ's resurrection from the dead is the fulfillment of the Christmas joy of Christ coming to earth as a man to walk and share in our lives and to heal and free us from the bondage of oppression and sin.

This word, "rejoice" was never used in the Old Testament – it became a new word with a new meaning at the time of the Annunciation, when Mary heard these words (at the time she is told that she is going to be the mother of Jesus): *'Rejoice, so highly favored.'* Mary is to be filled with joy because God has called her by her name and her son will be the long-awaited Messiah. This rejoicing continues with Our Lady's visit to her cousin St. Elizabeth and at the especially at the time of Jesus' birth when the angels appeared to the shepherds as they heard this life-giving message, *'Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy.'* The good news of Jesus' birth is meant not only for the shepherds, it continues to be good news for each of us today.

If you take notice, today, on our Advent Wreath we light our pink candle to mark this day of joy. It is symbolic of the dawning of a new hope, a new era in our lives. Christ is being born in our hearts.

Like Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, today each of us is asked to be a person of joy and we are asked to share that our joy with others. There are many people, some of whom we may even know, who have little reason to be joyful at this time of the year. As Mary did with Elizabeth, may we follow her example and share our joy with all those meet during these last few days and weeks of Advent. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **NOTICE: SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:**

There is no Mass on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2020.

**Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2020: Masses 10:00 AM AND 12 NOON.**

Confession by appointment (201) 567-0450 Ext. 212

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Envelopes are located at the back of the Chapel for those wanting to remember their loved ones with donations toward the Christmas decorations. Please drop them in the collection basket or by the SMA office.

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

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