



Society of African Missions

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

December 16: \$479

December 22: \$621

December 29: \$466

Christmas Day: \$2,191

January 1: \$289

January 3: \$701

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of January 10, 2021 - January 16, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 10	10:00	Rose Iacullo+	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	12:00	Conrad Bing Felix+	Linda Rubio
Mon. Jan. 11	9:30	Dorothy Srimfel	Breda Walsh & Family
	11:45	Conversion of Sinners	Beatrice D'Souza
Tue. Jan. 12	9:30	Fe Tolentino+	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Leonard Turiquiano+	The Hellman Family
Wed. Jan. 13	9:30	William Maher+	Breda Walsh & Family
	11:45	Healing & Thanksgiving	Guinto Family
Thurs. Jan. 14	9:30	Pat O'Sullivan+	Breda Walsh & Family
	11:45	The Quinn Family+	Mary Quinn & Family
Fri. Jan. 15	9:30	Kathleen Shannon McDermott & Margaret Doonan+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Jean Quinn+	Angela
Sat. Jan. 16	9:30	Thanksgiving Erlinda Cortez	Friend
	11:45	Angelina Fernandez+	Daughters

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-11

Those who thirst are invited to "come to the water".

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-9

Christian life requires both faith in Jesus and love of other people.

Gospel Mark 1:7-11

Mark's Gospel starts with the "good news" of Jesus' baptism at the beginning of his ministry.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,
House Superior

“You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.”

“Illustration

On this weekend last year more than twenty thousand Christian pilgrims flocked to the Jordan River to be baptised in the spot where John the Baptist is said to have baptised Jesus. Qasr al-Yahud (“tower of the Jews”) is located in the West Bank about twenty-five miles east of Jerusalem, on the border with Jordan. It is one of the most important Christian pilgrimage sites in the world.

Before the opening of the site in 2000, the location was closed to visitors and pilgrims as the area was filled with landmines that had been planted there following the Six Day War in 1967. After the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel in 1994, the site was cleared of mines, paving the way for the return of the ancient site from a war zone into a pilgrimage site. Care of the site today includes ecological work around the Jordan River itself, as its shores have become polluted and its levels are at historic lows as water gets diverted for human use. Yet many people want to be baptised in the Jordan River for both its historical and spiritual significance.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus grew up in the backwater town of Nazareth in Galilee. When news reached him that John was baptising in the Jordan near Jericho, he seems to have interpreted it as a sign that the time had come for his public ministry to begin. When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and Mark records that the Spirit descended like a dove upon him. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.” We learn that Jesus is sent by God and the “Beloved” of God.

As Jesus begins his public ministry, we are granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. At this moment we see for the first time the union of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The three persons of the Trinity are participating in this baptismal ritual. But we see something else as well. We see Jesus accepting baptism by John, mingling with those who have come to confess their sins, be baptised and receive forgiveness. He joins the queue of people for baptism, wanting to share the joys and sorrows of his people. Jesus shows that he intends to engage with humanity in all of its struggles, limitations and problems.

Application

The baptism of Jesus begins his plunge into the life of the people. In the depths of the water he enters into the depths of his own humanity, human society and the natural world which is the context of all life on earth. We could say that Jesus has entered into that part of all of us which laughs and sings, dances and cries, feels for those who are sick and suffering, desires the best for others, and cares for God’s creation. Baptism builds up the faith, not only of the person being baptised, but of the rest of the church community.

Today we are reminded of the implications of our own baptism in Christ, which requires us to live as Christ did and immerse ourselves in the grief and joy of all God’s people. We are called to show compassion to people in need, be advocates for justice and peace, and care for the gifts of earth, such as water. We are to be a healing presence in the world. And note that Jesus is told that he is “Beloved”. As human beings, we have an instinctive need to be loved as well as to love others. Hopefully, each of us has people in our lives who love and care for us. Have you told them lately how much they mean to you? Today may we be mindful of the people who love us and be grateful for the great gift they give us. And also today, may we be more dedicated in our loving, and resolve in the coming year not to let petty quarrels and jealousies get in the way of caring for those around us. Our love for and service to one another is a sharing in the love of God. Let us be reminded of that as we reflect on the beautiful image of Jesus, the voice of God the Father and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove of peace revealing themselves at the Jordan.”

The Living Word

Christmas Flowers Donation.- We sincerely thank all those who donated for the Christmas Flowers in memory of: Peter Quinn, Annie Murphy, McGowan Family, Laura and Virgil Costa, Robert Jaeger, Savero & Benita Madurante, Marina Madurante, Thomas R Dawson, Martin Keane Sr., Itiginia Joven, Ramon and Rosario Ambulo, Teofila Dalman, Mr. Raymond Meisenbacher, Fitzimons Family, Doonan Family, Teelon Family, Murphy Family, Fr Daniel Lynch, SMA, Traevia Family, Mary Jean Quinn, Conklin Families, Deceased Members of the Franciscan Sisters who died during the pandemic, Margaret Nolan, Rev. Fr Joachim D’Mello, JP, Walsh Family, Mallon Family, O’Connell Family, and Trainor Family.