



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
 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. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA
 551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$1033

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Masses for the week of March 7, 2021 - March 13, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 7	10:00	Teresa Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
	12:00	Peter Quinn+	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. March 8	9:30	John Paladino+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Tue. March 9	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Lora Passoero Passarelli+	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
Wed. March 10	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Adeline Fantozzi+	Mary Fischbach
Thurs. March 11	9:30	Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho (Liv)	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Benny Walsh+	Angela Hickey
Fri. March 12	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Corrine Simmons+	Rich Kane
Sat. March 13	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Martin Cooley+	Michael Murphy

**STATIONS
 OF THE
 CROSS**

There will be Stations
 of the Cross in the
 Chapel each Friday
 during Lent at 7:30pm

Today's Readings:

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
God does not let sin continue for ever. The commandments are also statements of fact.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Until we see God, God's wisdom will always look like foolishness to us.

Gospel John 2:13-25
The cleansing of the Temple by Christ warns us that he will continually cleanse the new temple of the Holy Spirit, which is his Church.

“Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Illustration

The Old Testament has what may seem a surprisingly small vocabulary, which means that the same word can mean many different things. This is one reason why translations of the Old Testament can be so different from each other. Remarkably, the Hebrew word for “word” is a good example of this. It can mean “word” or “thing”. In the Hebrew mind, “words” are “things” – they have just as much substance as any other “thing”. This is not so odd as it might seem. Although few of us may have noticed it, we do something similar in English with “thing” and “think”. A “thing” is something you can think of.

In Hebrew the word has a special power in the sense of God’s words. Human beings use words to describe things, but God uses words to bring things into being. So in the first reading today, we have the famous Ten Commandments, except the word for “commandment” is actually the word for “word”; it is really ten “words”, rather than ten “commandments”. Yet we speak of the ten “commandments” rather than the ten “words”. With God, a word is both a commandment and a statement of fact. God’s words come true. Sin will end for those who enter heaven and even for those who reject God, sin will be limited. The frustration of the evil will is the greatest of punishments in hell. God does not allow us to sin for ever. We should not think of God’s commandments as human laws, which may or may not be obeyed. In the end God’s kingdom will come and God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We see this in the story of the cleansing of the Temple in the Gospel.

Gospel Teaching

In today’s Gospel reading, Christ cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem. When he is challenged about his actions, he responds with these words, “Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.” His victory is guaranteed and the resurrection is the sign of that victory. Even though the historic Jerusalem Temple will be destroyed, the risen Christ and the Church which is his body will triumph. The destruction of the Temple and the death of Christ are caused by sin, but Christ will triumph over sin and death. In purifying the Temple now, Christ shows that his resurrection is about creating a new life.

This is one reason why the Church continues to sing the Old Testament psalms. The psalms speak of victory, often in militaristic terms, and this can seem strange and even offensive to our way of thinking. The key is that the victory is not ours but God’s. God will win, and God does not need us to bring about that victory by force. Instead we are called to believe and hope in God’s victory, the victory we prepare for by prayer. Much will be destroyed before that victory comes, but what is destroyed, the Lord can raise up again, as Christ says later in John’s Gospel: “Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.” We see so much degradation and ruin in the world, often caused by human sins, but there is nothing that falls that cannot be raised again, until we come to the place where the true temple stands for ever.

Application

If God is going to win, then what is our role in God’s victory? It is quite simple: we are called to believe and hope in that victory, and by love share the fruits of that victory with others. There are signs of the kingdom to come here on earth, and there are small victories over evil, which can give us hope and protect us from despair. While we live on earth as Christians, we live in the temple because we are the temple, which is why we are called to purify ourselves to keep the temple pure. This is why self-examination is the foundation of all progress. If we fight injustice, or prejudice, we must start by considering our own injustice, to be constantly trying to overcome our own prejudices, and we must be honest here, even if it is painful for us to do so. We will fail if we rely on our own power, but we can remember that Christ is with us; he will teach us the truth and set us free.

The Living Word

NOTE.- Mass intentions still available. The 9:30am Mass intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.