



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

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

1921 2021



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: \$694

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,
House Superior

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of May 16, 2021 - May 22, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. May 16	10:00	Diane & Mike Bruno (Liv.) 40th Wedd. Ann.	Family
	12:00	Frayda Ascrate (Liv.)	Erlinda Cortez
Mon. May 17	9:30	William Maher+	Breda Walsh
	11:45	Herman List+	John Tietjen
Tue. May 18	9:30	Jonas Tolentino+	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Wed. May 19	9:30	Maise Bohan+	Duggan Family
	11:45	Nieva Alcazaren+	Alcazaren Family
Thurs. May 20	9:30	Rodrigo Espinal+	Luz M. DiMacali
	11:45	Elsie Koch+	Koch Family
Fri. May 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Sat. May 22	9:30	Leonila M. Valila+	Luz M. DiMacali
	11:45	Purificacion Guinto & Julian Gomez+	Guinto Family

Today's Readings: *First Reading Acts 1:1-11 Conversion is the work of a lifetime. Even after Jesus has taught his disciples in his risen body for forty days, they still miss the point, modelling their expectations of the kingdom on the values and patterns of worldly power and prestige.*

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 Growing to spiritual maturity and into the body of Christ is not about spectacular signs and wonders. Day by day, by responding to God's grace in the quiet and steady practice of virtues, we develop the gifts needed for the building of God's kingdom.

Gospel Mark 16:15-20 Mark's Gospel ends with listing miraculous signs and wonders that will identify the followers of Christ. But the true wonder is that as sinful human beings we can nevertheless be heralds of God's kingdom, producing in our lives and witness the fruits of God's Holy Spirit.

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“Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.”

Illustration .- Witnessing the performance of a world-class musician, artist, actor or athlete, we're often tempted to see the individual as a different class of mortal from ourselves. This person is a genius, in a class of his or her own, someone touched by some miraculous brilliance that has bypassed us lesser mortals altogether. Though it's true that it takes great gifts to be a record-beater of any sort, the greatest performers will say that most of their success is built on very ordinary and boring repetition of low-level tasks. The public sees the few moments of glory but not the long hours of practice, the pain and weariness and frustration of staying with the task well beyond any feeling of satisfaction or achievement.

Gospel Teaching .- The end of Mark's Gospel is like the grand finale in a concert, crowned at the end with a firework spectacular. Jesus sends his disciples out on a mission to conquer the world – no small task for just a few ordinary working people. In case they are feeling apprehensive, he promises that their mission will be accompanied by astonishing miracles, which will surely convince all who witness them. They will heal sick people while suffering no harm themselves, even in deadly danger. They will speak in tongues and overcome all evil. Yet we know that from the beginning of the Church's life, Jesus' disciples faltered and failed, suffered and died. Was he just talking big to get them going? Or was he perhaps wrong in his predictions? Or are these promises about recognising the hidden strength and transformative power that lies within the exercise of everyday virtues? The apostles did spread the Gospel, after all, and people are living that Gospel thousands of years later.

Application.- We live in an era of celebrity culture, and are used to following the lives and achievements of the rich, successful and famous people who populate the media. We see polished performances, but this tends to make us fail to appreciate the dedication and steady practice behind the performance. It can also make us fail to see the heroism and huge achievement all around us as ordinary people live out their commitments of love and personal value often at great cost.

At the ascension, Jesus' disciples were still fixated on a kingdom modelled on the pattern of the empires around them. But the God who chose to be born in a stable, live as a carpenter and die as a criminal is operating on a different model. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are often modest in their practical expression. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control tend not to hit the headlines. But Jesus' ascension into heaven is part of a process whereby his followers become gradually enabled to embody the Gospel in their lives. Jesus' life and death illustrate God's saving plan for the whole of history. From the moment of his rising Jesus reassures his followers that he will always be with them. The difficulty, for them and for us, now lies in recognising him. The signs of his presence are modest: bread, wine, water and oil. The living out of the daily Gospel is often unobtrusive and apparently unrewarding. Yet anyone whose life has been touched by someone who truly lives the Gospel knows what a transformative experience that can be.

A person who is close to Jesus may not look like a genius or a media sensation, but such people have a star quality which is unmistakable. They are living examples of what goodness looks like. We are surrounded on all sides by everyday miracles in signs of the kingdom. We meet them in those who are in public service of all types and in any kind of self-gift of one human being to another.

Jesus comes into the world quietly and leaves it in his human body mysteriously. In his ascension he seems to confirm his presence among us by disappearing. But we can experience the power of God's indwelling Spirit without having to see it. This is the greatest miracle and treasure of all, freely available to anyone who asks for it. Our task is to ask for it daily and to embody the gift in our everyday living.

The Living Word

NOTE.- Dear friends,

In this Easter Season when we are steeped in the joy of Christ's Resurrection and Mercy, we thank God for the continued blessings that He bestows on us. In a particular way, here at the Mission in Tenaflly, we are also thanking the Lord for a very special milestone. This year **SMA celebrates 100 years of service at 23 Bliss Avenue!**

As an effort to mark this great event, we are giving the property a “face lift” by planting a variety of 100 trees that will help enhance the beauty of the grounds of the Mission. It is a big task, but with your help, it will be a memorable one. Each tree we plant will be in memory of a special loved one in our lives.

If you would like to help sponsor us with a **\$250** donation for a tree in memory of a loved one, we will remember their name(s) in a memorial plaque that will be unveiled on the property later on this fall.

Due to the nature of the shrubbery, planting will commence at the middle of April and will be completed by September. We are requesting the donations be received by **May 31st 2021**.

Your friendship has always been a gift to us. Thank you for your support. Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA