



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

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 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$ 683

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of July 11, 2021 – July 17, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 11	10:00	Peter Quinn+	Mary Quinn & Family
	12:00	Laura & Virgil Costa	Victoria Costa
Mon. July 12	9:30	Deceased Members of Cassucci & Luisi+ Families	Pastore Family
	11:45	Theresa Gilhooly+	Mae Kenny
Tue. July 13	9:30	Feast of Rose Mystica Spiritual Blessing for Jose & Amala Family by Jose Tom	
	11:45	Mary Jean Quinn+	Lisa McCarthy
Wed. July 14	9:30	Deceased Members of the McCarthy Family	
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Thurs. July 15	9:30	Michael & Rosemarie Aversa+	John Albanese
	11:45	Joseph Abitante+	
Fri. July 16	9:30	Jack & Gret Molloy+	Hickey Family
	11:45	Carmela & Giuseppe Saliturno+	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
Sat. July 17	9:30	Thomas Shin+	IaRovere Family
	11:45	Lilliam Holmes+	Nancy Pozinarsw

Today's Readings:

First Reading Amos 7:12-15

Amos, a shepherd and a tender of sycamore trees, totally unqualified to be a prophet, is called by the Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

We are chosen in Christ "before the world was made".

Gospel Mark 6:7-13

Jesus sends out his twelve disciples.

CONDOLENCES.–

The SMA Fathers send our sympathy to Kathy Jaeger, and Pat Feulner in the passing of their sister Helen Dougherty.
May She Rest in Peace.



“Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ.”

Illustration

Our three readings today are intrinsically connected and offer us a three-step spiritual path: from hesitation, to affirmation, to transformation. In our first reading we meet Amos, who, if he was alive today, as a shepherd producing meat and wool, might find himself elevated to the status of a “key worker”. However, in ancient Israel, Amos, as a shepherd, would have been among the lowest, and the least fragrant-smelling, of workers. His other job as the dresser of sycamore trees was work that was seasonal and unreliable. In this role he was responsible for piercing a small fig-like and bitter fruit (known as “the fig of the poor”) at exactly the right time so that it became sweet and provided food for poor people who would otherwise starve. It is quite obvious that neither of these professions would be on the CV of a prophet. Amos finds himself called by God to fulfil a role for which he is both ill prepared and hesitant. Might some of us here today feel that God may be calling us to a role for which we are less than qualified?

For example, how many of you who are parents, in the months before the birth of your first child, wondered if you had the gifts and skills to provide the care, love and attention this precious child would need? You could be forgiven if your first response when faced with this new challenge was like that of Amos, one of hesitation.

Gospel Teaching

Today’s beautiful second reading offers us the affirmation that we have been blessed with “all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ”. It shows us the path from hesitation to affirmation, the path from uncertainty to freedom, and reassures us that we have been chosen in Christ to live “through love in his presence”. This free gift of love from God, which finds its fullness in Christ’s total self-giving love on the cross, is what will enable each one of us to be transformed, to leave our doubts and fears behind, to worry less about our qualifications and to be able to say “yes” to what seems impossible.

We are to be partakers in the mystery of God’s plan, to bear God’s Good News to our world of today. As a song reminds us, “Love, love changes everything”. For new parents, their child’s first loving gaze may fill their hearts with awe and wonder. Their love for this tiny individual enables and disarms, overcomes and enthuses, inspires them and makes all things possible. And so the couple are affirmed in their love for one another and for this precious new life.

This love then becomes transformative, in that it changes the lives of those around them. It was a transformative love like this which enabled the disciples in today’s Gospel to go out to preach, to anoint and to heal. The disciples themselves had experienced Jesus’ love, a love so powerful that it had caused some of them to drop their nets and follow him, a love that saw their humanity and neediness, and loved them unconditionally just the same. This love is expressed in healing, compassion and goodness. Given authority by Jesus himself, the disciples could extend this transformative love to others, offer others the promise of new life and move beyond the familiar to the unknown in faith and hope. They had moved from Amos-like hesitation to finding affirmation in Christ’s love and to such transformation within that they became apostles of healing, on mission for Christ.