



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 Frank Wright

201-567-0450 Ext 225

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 Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-256-0450 Ext. 253

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA

551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$816

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 – OCTOBER 2, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 26	10:00	George T. Neill - Happy Birthday	
	12:00	Muriel Gawlik+	Friend
Mon. Sept. 27	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Theresa & Michael Martin+	John Tietjen
Tue. Sept. 28	9:30	Renato Kintanar (Living) Birthday	Fe Vela
	11:45	Paul DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Wed. Sept. 29	9:30	Robert J. Forgrave—Happy Birthday	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Thurs. Sept. 30	9:30	Eusebio & Remedios Verano (Liv.) Birthday	Fe Vela
	11:45	Lorraine Price+	Diane & Mike Bruno
Fri. Oct. 1	9:30	Spec. Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Spec. Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. Oct. 2	9:30	Spec. Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Joseph Abitante+	

Today's Readings:

First Reading Numbers 11:25-29

If only we all were prophets of the Lord.

Second Reading James 5:1-6

Our wealth can hinder us from caring for those in need.

Gospel Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

Anyone who is not against us is for us.

Please join us for a Mass of
Thanksgiving celebrating
100 years of SMA presence in
Tenafly!

Friday: October 1, 2021

11:45 AM

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

You would think that the Bible would be filled with holy people, with people who put others' interests ahead of their own, with people who are immune to the feelings of jealousy. Well, it's not!

It's filled with people just like the ones we see in this morning's readings. In the first reading from Numbers, we see people who are jealous of the two men left in the camp. Since they weren't with Moses, when the Spirit of God was being passed out, they shouldn't be allowed to prophesy. In the Gospel from Mark, we see the disciples jealous of someone who was doing miracles in Jesus's name.

I think there is here what St. Thomas Aquinas would have called a category mistake. The disciples seemed to think that the power given them through Jesus was their own personal power, and woe betide anyone else who tried to make use of it. We're talking "personal power", like in the Harry Potter books, like in the Lord of the Rings, like in all the fairy tales that we have ever had read to us, when we were youngsters. So, how did the disciples get it wrong?

Well, if people are able to accomplish great deeds through the Spirit, it's the Spirit that's doing the deeds and not the people. No magic wands; no fairy dust; no spells and incantations. That's not how God works. Any saint we have heard of, who was capable of doing great deeds, will be the first to tell you that the power doesn't come from him or her, and that it's not theirs to wield as they wish. The Spirit blows when and where it wills.

Nobody has a monopoly on God's Spirit. In a sense, that's one of the points of this morning's Gospel passage. By the same token, any time we feel the Spirit acting in us, we should act in humility, be ready to discern, in the light of the Catholic tradition, what kind of Spirit is at work.

There's a nakedness about God's Spirit. It's not magic. Much as we would wish to avail ourselves of magic wands or spells and incantations, like Harry Potter, the working of the Spirit depends on faith. If we avail ourselves of anything, it should be of prayer, the kind of prayer that wells up out of our soul, the kind of faith that holds onto things hoped for, without any accoutrements.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

PRAYER FOR SMA VOCATIONS

God our Father, we pray that you would bless our Church, and especially the Society of African Missions, with many members who are filled with a missionary spirit. Extend your call to our youth, and instill in them the desire to devote themselves to you and to the service of your people, especially in the most abandoned areas of Africa. Strengthen us in the vocation we have received.

May our lives give witness to others of the joy of serving you.

We ask this through Christ your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Mary, Mother of All Missionaries, Pray for us