



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: \$997

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 5	10:00	Joseph Lee (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee
	12:00	Jack Cirincione+	Kathleen Jaeger
Mon. Sept. 6	9:30	Spiritual Academic Blessings for Christie, Dominic, Jeffrey by Jose Tom	
	11:45	Michael Murphy (Liv.)	Michelle Sullivan
Tue. Sept. 7	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Sullivan Nora (Liv.)	Michelle Sullivan
Wed. Sept. 8	9:30	Virgillio Aala+	Fe Vela
	11:45	Vic Rowan Umali+ Fred Micoao+	Fe Vela
Thurs. Sept. 9	9:30	Madeline Halley+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Antonio S. Fernandez (Liv.)	Sister
Fri. Sept. 10	9:30	Romulo Kintanar+ Birthday	Fe Vela
	11:45	Ariel Duprey+ Fatima Nap Co+	Linda Rubio
Sat. Sept. 11	9:30	Antonio Vela+ Birthday	Fe Vela
	11:45	Ronnie & John Betts (Liv.)	Rich Kane

Today’s Readings:

First Reading *Isaiah 35:4-7 God offers courage to all those with faith.*

Second Reading *James 2:1-5 Do not be deferential to those with riches or power.*

Gospel *Mark 7:31-37*

Our call to have “hearts without borders”.



CONDOLENCES.- The SMA Fathers send our sympathy to the Rivera Family in the passing of Soledad (Sally) Rivera. May She Rest In Peace.

23RD WEEK ORDINARY REFLECTION

This reflection gives me a chance to talk about some themes that I won't address in the homily for this weekend.

Who is this Deaf man who appears out of nowhere in the Gospel from Mark? The fact is that we don't know. We don't know what has brought him to this point in time, and we don't know what happens to him afterwards. What we know is that he is one of the many people who come to Jesus asking for healing and a change in their lives.

Our ignorance hasn't stopped us, in the long run, from ascribing all kinds of meanings to the fact that he is deaf. I heard a homily on this passage on a weekday, when I attended mass at a neighboring parish in Washington DC. The young priest proceeded to tell us that the Deaf man was like a teenager who never seems to hear anything you say, someone who is stubborn, headstrong, and selfish. In spite of being the chaplain to the Deaf community in our nation's capital, I decided to say nothing as I left for fear that I might wring his neck.

The Deaf community rightly takes offense at this use of their bodies as a metaphor for not only being hard of hearing but hard of heart as well. The problem here is not the Deaf man but rather our propensity to use the bodies of people with disabilities to stand in for all kinds of unflattering character traits. We can understand the hurt and the anger on the part of people with disabilities, a very large part of the population, to the use of their bodies as metaphors for moral imperfection.

Maybe this is a good weekend to reflect on what we say about people with disabilities in our everyday discourse. As Catholics, if there is a challenge for us, it is to make sure that those with disabilities be given the opportunity to take their rightful places in the Body of Christ. As the slogan of the Department of Special Needs Ministry in our nation's capital says so clearly, "Belonging starts here."

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA



WELCOME FR. FRANK WRIGHT SMA

With a heartfelt joy, the SMA Tenafly community welcomes Fr Frank Wright, SMA.

Fr. Frank is taking over the position of House Superior from Fr. Dermot Roache this week. He was ordained here in the Tenafly Chapel back in 1993 and served in Kenya for fifteen years after that, first in the inner city of Nairobi, in a Swahili-speaking parish, and subsequently in the tea fields outside of Thika, in a Kikuyu-speaking parish. Upon his return to the States, he served as the chaplain to the Deaf community in Washington DC and as the pastor of a parish with many seasonal workers in West Yellowstone, MT.

Besides the M. Div., he also holds a Ph.D. in Theoretical Linguistics. In addition to his duties as House Superior, Fr. Frank works as an interpreter/translator for the Generalate in Rome, facilitates many SMA meetings using the Appreciative Inquiry model, and serves on the SMA Art and Culture Commission.

His homiletic style is one of taking Sacred Scripture seriously, using it to make sense of our own life experiences, and thereby fostering our engagement with the world and its challenges.