



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

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

#### Sick

Contact Fr. Frank Wight

201-450-6586

### 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: \$1,107**

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of October 17, 2021 – October 23, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Oct. 17	10:00	Anna & Enrico Jr. Saliturno+	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
	12:00	Mary Elizabeth Kennedy+	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. Oct. 18	9:30	Max Paul Pruzinsky (Liv.)	Vincent & Maryann Pruzinsky
	11:45	Victor Bontuyan+	Family
Tue. Oct. 19	9:30	Rogelio Kintanar+	Fe Vela
	11:45	Catherine M Hamill+	Friend
Wed. Oct. 20	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Healing and Thanksgiving Marcelo & Dominic (Liv.)	Guinto Family
Thurs. Oct. 21	9:30	Sungwhan Choi (Liv.) Birthday	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Fri. Oct. 22	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Sat. Oct. 23	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Diana Colon (Liv.) Birthday	John Tietjen

### **Today’s Readings:**

#### **First Reading** Isaiah 53:10-11

*The Lord calls us to commit ourselves to him. While that might involve suffering, there is the promise of joy to come.*

#### **Second Reading** Hebrews 4:14-16

*In following Jesus, Christians follow someone who, like them, has experienced the difficulties and hardships of life. We can be comforted that he is merciful.*

#### **Gospel** Mark 10:35-45

*Jesus is a different leader – rather than seek glory, he seeks to be a servant and to sacrifice his life to save others.*

## 29th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION

I want to talk about the word “compassion.” You know that word we use in a sentence like, “Aw, come on now. Have a little compassion on your fellow man.” There’s a problem with using a word this way. The problem is to be found in the root meaning of the word. “Com” means “with” or “together with”, and the “passion” part of the word means “to suffer.” Obviously, either you are one with a person in his suffering, or you are not. There’s no middle ground.

I bring this up because this concept figures greatly in the first reading, which we heard today from Isaiah. The passage this morning is one of the four Servant Songs. They occur in the middle section of Isaiah’s rather long book. You will no doubt recognize them, because the Church often uses them in the liturgy during Advent and Lent. These are the words of a man who has given everything he has for his people, and even though these poems were written 500 years before the birth of Christ, the words sum up in a few brief phrases what it means to act as Christ did.

There are a lot of things that we can say about the Servant Songs. The Servant is not only serving the people of Judah; he is also God’s servant. God has endowed him with such sensitivity that he feels the pains and troubles of the Jewish people as his own, and he is willing to suffer in their place. In his actions, we see the real meaning of the word “compassion.” It indicates a bridging of the space between one human being and another, to such an extent that what one person feels, the other feels as well. If you suffer, then I suffer too.

On the surface, it looks like this isn’t possible. How can what is interior to one person be felt by someone else? I know our imagination balks at this idea, but quite frankly, all of us have suffered in common with the sufferings of members of our own families, or with our closest friends. We already know in a limited sense what the Prophet is talking about, and we already feel something of what Jesus felt. Jesus, in his compassion, goes far beyond our own experience to attain a total identity with all of suffering humanity.

The challenge of the Servant Songs, the challenge particularly of Lent and of Holy Week, is to be able to identify alongside Jesus, and alongside all the suffering people in the world, and need I say it, all of creation. Can we attain such a level of sensitivity in order to do that? It is thus that we too can become servants of God.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**ROSES FOR LIFE PROGRAM.**— The Knights of Columbus—St. John’s Council #1345 will be hosting Roses for Life on Sunday, October 24, 2021, after all Masses.