



# 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

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: \$1,320**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Dec. 5	10:00	Ernie Ascatre (Liv.)	Erlinda Cortez
	12:00	Laura & Virgil Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Dec. 6	9:30	Phil Buffa+ Birthday	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	11:45	Theresa Tietjen+	Family
Tue. Dec. 7	9:30	Patty & Meredith Murphy	Michael Murphy
	11:45	Linda Bishop+	Rich & Marilyn
Wed. Dec. 8	9:30	Juliana Lee (Liv.) Birthday	Thomas Lee
	11:45	SMA Foundation Day	
Thurs. Dec. 9	9:30	Francis Elliott+	
	11:45	Irene Iannore+	Diane & Mike Bruno
Fri. Dec. 10	9:30	Mary Ellen Ortiz+ & Frank Traina+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Salvatore Di Paolo+	Martha Di Paolo
Sat. Dec. 11	9:30	Thomas P Dougherty+	Kathleen Jaeger
	11:45	Arcema Pada Loy & Elmer Kim Ken (Liv.)	Linda Rubio

### **Today's Readings:**

#### **First Reading** Baruch 5:1-9

*The prophet Baruch echoes the message of Isaiah that God will enable us to walk safely on level ground.*

#### **Second Reading** Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

*Paul wants us to prepare for the Day of Christ. His prayer for us is that we will always recognise what is best.*

#### **Gospel** Luke 3:1-6

*John the Baptist is the one who fulfils the prophecy about preparing a way for the Lord and shows us what needs to be done.*

## FR. FRANK'S CORNER 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Advent ... is all about Christ coming to us as a flesh-and-blood human being; at least that's the thrust of the Gospel reading with John the Baptist this weekend. Jesus is coming to be one of us, to share in all that we do (except sin) and in all that we experience. ... You know, our Jewish, Moslem, Hindu, and Buddhist brothers and sisters wonder why God would want to bother to do such a thing in the first place? I mean, if you're God, and you already have everything—what's the attraction? And if WE take a good look at humanity, it may require a great deal of imagination at times to see anything wonderful and mysterious in the unwashed masses around us.

Fair warning! If you're looking for answers to what I'm talking about here, please remember that I deal mostly in questions, and in making sure that the questions we ask of God and of the scriptures are ones that will help us grow. ... So, we've got to take a closer look at this whole idea of the incarnation. The word itself says it all: carnation is the same root as carnival, carnivorous, carnal, etc. It all has to do with the materiality of who we are as human beings. And there's something about being flesh and blood creatures of God that prompts us, like Job in the Bible, to ask even more questions.

So, let's extend our questioning. Since God chose to become one of us, WHAT then is the meaning of a human person? Asked differently, what are people for? ... We can learn a lot from what the Christian theologians have been saying for the last twenty centuries: Man (the human being) is made in the image and likeness of God. He or she has free will and can choose to grow into that image or not. We, as God's creatures, are made for community; i.e. we do not acquire our identity as individuals in isolation from one another. We're herd animals if you will. We are to imitate God in his providence, his kindness, his compassion, and his love.

One aspect of being a human being that has come to the fore in the last 130 years is that we are made for WORK. We collaborate with God in the building up of the Kingdom. We see this work as creative work; our labor is one of those things that makes us more truly human. We use the phrase "the dignity of labor", trying to encapsulate the respect that we have for the work that people do; and therefore for people themselves. This is a point that has been made repeatedly in the encyclicals of the Church since 1894.

What or who or how is this human being? This person, this creature of God, which Jesus has opted to assume unto himself? What is the meaning of our life? Why were we placed on the face of the earth? For us Catholics, this idea of the incarnation encompasses everything we have said about the uniqueness—both practically and theologically—about the human person.

This is a good point to remember, in this world of uncertainty, of flesh and blood human beings, of struggle and toil, of individual evil and systemic evil, that Jesus assumed on his coming. It is also a good thing to remember in Advent, when we aspire to be the very best people we can possibly be.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

### ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM Short presentation in the Chapel for Advent by Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, opportunity for reconciliation followed by mass at 11:45 AM**

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> is a Friday. No 11:45 AM mass**

**Christmas Eve masses: 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM**

**Christmas Day masses: 10:00 AM and 12:00 AM**

**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Holy Family: masses as usual at 10 AM and 12 AM**