



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. 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: \$1,376

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of December 12, 2021 – December 18, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Dec. 12	10:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Ramy Suresca+ Leny Reyes+	Linda Rubio
Mon. Dec. 13	9:30	Augustine Elliott II+	
	11:45	Lucy Buongiorno+	
Tue. Dec. 14	9:30	Doris & John Neville+	Neville Family
	11:45	Special Intentions Gina Lupino (Liv.)	
Wed. Dec. 15	9:30	Sam Gold+	Ray Pruzinsky
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Dec. 16	9:30	Catherine McQueeny Elliott	
	11:45	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Fri. Dec. 17	9:30	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Maureen Portmann+ Peltier Family+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Dec. 18	9:30	Catherine Elliott+	
	11:45	Theresa Tietjen+	Family

Today's Readings:

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

The prophet looks forward to a time of joy as he awaits the coming of the Messiah.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Trust in Jesus Christ and you will find true happiness.

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Christ, the Anointed One, and baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This past Wednesday, we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception—Mary was prepared from the very beginning to be the mother of the Savior. I think another way of saying this is that God takes the long view of things. We are saved by Christ's death and resurrection on the cross, but we don't stop there. We talk about salvation history, how God planned from the beginning to not only redeem his people, but also to invite them into his own life, the life of the Trinity.

Shortly, we shall enter into the octave before Christmas. This starts on the 17th. It's a kind of countdown to Christmas. The antiphons for the Magnificat, which is recited or sung during Evening Prayer, are usually termed the O antiphons. We're familiar with them, because they form the basis of the Advent Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." "O come, thou Wisdom from on high." "O come, thou root of Jesse, come." "O come, thou dayspring." We keep piling on the epithets or phrases to try to convey the many ways that we talk about Christ's coming for our salvation.

We are also drawing near the readings for the Christmas event. I want to draw your attention to the prologue of the Gospel of Matthew. The evangelist lays out the genealogy of Jesus, how his family goes back, not only to Abraham, our father in faith, but right back to Adam, our father in humanity. The author organizes it into three groups of fourteen generations, in which the entire history of the Jewish people is set out. He imposes order out of what could be chaos. In other words, God has it all in hand. God knows what he's doing.

What can we say about this genealogy? It's a very strange genealogy, to say the least. Unusual for the time, there are women in the genealogy—Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, and finally Mary herself. You have villains and heroes. You have people who are deserving of our admiration, and other people for whom the verdict is still out. It is said that God writes straight with crooked lines. God takes the long view.

This way of seeing things and preparing for the future is appropriate for our own lives as well. God has prepared for us in some way; we are not an accident of history or biology. Who we are is not determined by one action in our lives but rather by the sum total of who we constitute ourselves to be. And in the end, we can credit who we are to the intervention, to the guidance, to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

It's all part of God's plan, and the coming of the Savior is a good time to savor it.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Dec. 18th 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. 24th 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. 26th Feast of the Holy Family: masses as usual at 10 AM and 12 AM

MEMORIAL DONATION.-

The Altar Bread and Wine this week is donated by Rich Kane in memory of Linda Bishop Revere.

