



# 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:

**Dec. 19, 2021: \$1,628**

**Christmas 2021: \$6,511**

**Dec. 26, 2021: \$1,042**

**Jan. 2, 2022: \$1,296**

Thank you for your support.

### **Administration:**

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

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of January 9, 2022 – January 15, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Jan. 9	10:00	Mary Elizabeth Kennedy+	Gerald & Marie Nigro
	12:00	Mary Elizabeth Kennedy+	Gerald & Marie Nigro
Mon. Jan. 10	9:30	Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Rose Iacullo+	Susan & Bob Iacullo
Tue. Jan. 11	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of Paradis Family	
	11:45	Eileen & John Ryan+	Breda Walsh
Wed. Jan. 12	9:30	Fe Tolentino+	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Jan. 13	9:30	Reverend Raymond C Plourde+	
	11:45	Antony Walsh (Liv.)	Breda Walsh
Fri. Jan. 14	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Antony Walsh (Liv.)	Breda Walsh
Sat. Jan. 15	9:30	Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Margaret Doonan+ & Kathleen Shannon McDermott+	Sue Murphy

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

**First Reading** *Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11*

*The prophet consoles God's people who are in exile in Babylon.*

**Second Reading** *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*

*The writer tells us that God has saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth.*

**Gospel** *Luke 3:15-16. 21-22*

*At his baptism, Jesus hears the voice of God his Father: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."*

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD REFLECTION

I'll have a chance to talk about the feast of Jesus' baptism in the homily. For the moment, let's work with the first reading from Isaiah, in its own right. This first reading is really an act of faith. "Go up on a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings. Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news. Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah; here is your God. Here comes with power, the Lord God." Admittedly, it sounds like everything has been accomplished. There's no more left to be done. God is victorious, and in his heaven, and all's right with the world.

A closer look at the context, however, may make my point about this being a vision received in faith. The author of this passage, let's call him Isaiah, is writing from exile. The Jewish people are not where they would wish to be. Babylon is not Jerusalem. As I said, the language of this reading is visionary. It's not a newspaper account; it's not reportage on the nightly newscast, or in your computer news-feed. It's a proclamation in the face of the facts. But no less valuable on that score!

If we were recasting Isaiah for our own times, what would our revamped version look like? What poetic metaphors would we invoke in order to convey our own sense of hope, our own confidence in God's salvation? Note that the Old Testament passage borrows its metaphors from the very geography of Israel: highways in the desert and in the wastelands, the leveling of mountain and valley, rugged land and rough valley made suitable for agriculture. We could borrow a page from Isaiah's book and create our metaphors from our own geography, but I think we would probably include something of the urban, the living together of people in town and city.

What would our vision look like? All the hospitals would be empty. Nobody would be waiting in line to get tested? The food banks would be shut down, because there would no longer be a need for them. In accord with Catholic social teaching: every person would be paid a liveable wage. Agriculture would again become a human endeavor with family farms. Everyone would have equal access to education. Violence, whether personal, national, or international, would not be the solution of choice when people disagree.

Admittedly, our vision too needs to be spoken in faith; however, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we too need to make our God-given vision a reality.

By Fr. Frank Wright, SMA

**Christmas Flowers Donation.-** A special thank you to all those who donated for our Christmas flowers anonymously as well as in memory of: Pauline Schweitzer, Dong Suk Joseph Chung, Laura and Virgil Costa, Robert Murphy, Joan Johnson, Bonacci Family, Susan Biagioni, Ruth Kane, Linda Bishop, Consuelo Nacito, Anastacio Nacito, Sol Zuleta, Billy Hickey, Peter Hickey, Angelo C Bonnici, Fr John F Murray, Annie Murphy, Jack and Gloria La Greca, Sta Romana Family, Mendoza Family, Dumlao Family, Fanuncial Family, John Joe Walsh Family, Thomas Mallon Family and all our deceased loved ones. May the Lord bless you all!