



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: \$1,105
Thank you for your support.
Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior
Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses for the week of March 27, 2022 – April 2, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 27	10:00	Stefania Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
	12:00	Joan Manaster+	Swift Family
Mon. March 28	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Fr. Tom Hamill+	Sister
Tue. March 29	9:30	Dec. Members of the Guiney Family	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. March 30	9:30	Happy Birthday Lauren N. Forgrave (liv.)	
	11:45	John, Nellie, Michael Sullivan+	Helen & Jerry Keegan
Thurs. March 31	9:30	Albert & Helen Fleckenstein+	
	11:45	Angelo Bonnici+	Gina Luppino
Fri. April 1	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Rose Peltier+ Joyce Supper+	Michelle Supper
Sat. April 2	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters

Today’s Readings: *First Reading* Joshua 5:9-12 *The shame of Egypt is taken away but not the memory of Egypt, which will sustain the new life.* *Second Reading* 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 *The creation of humanity is not yet complete but it continues as an act of reconciliation in Christ.* *Gospel* Luke 15:1-3. 11-32 *The story of the prodigal son is not just his story. It is the story of a whole family; indeed it is the story of the family of humankind.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS. There will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel each Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm

LENTEN REFLECTION. There will be short Lenten presentations/reflections on the Saturdays during Lent at 11:15 am before the 11:45 am mass. Mass as usual at 11:45 am.

CONFESSIONS. Starting on the first Saturday of Lent, there will be confessions every Saturday afternoon from 4-5 pm.

PRODIGAL SON/WELCOMING FATHER

The parable from the Gospel from Luke, which we heard this morning, can be very offensive to people. The Pharisees certainly didn't like it! How come? What's not to like? I mean is, are we not tempted to take heart, when we hear that the Father is ready to welcome the son home after all his profligate living. But there's more to the story than that!

We must remember that you always have to put Jesus' parables into the context that he told them in. In this case, the tax collectors and other sinners were all drawing near to Jesus, not only to listen to him, but to eat with him as well. Eat with him? Sit down at the same table with him? Share food with him? What a scandal! Nice people don't sit down and eat with sinners.

However, the fact of the matter is that the Gospel of Luke is full of people eating and drinking, all the time; in fact, they never seem to stop eating and drinking, to the extent that the images of sharing food and hospitality become one of the major themes in the Gospel as a whole. In Lent, this makes great sense, since we are headed towards Jerusalem and the celebration of the Passover meal.

Notice that this particular issue of food divides the people listening to Jesus. The scribes and pharisees, in particular, were deeply offended because many of their own claims to holiness revolved around what you ate, how you ate, when you ate, and most importantly, whom you ate with. For us, the image of the son returning to the father often stops short at the door of the house, when the father gives him new clothes and puts a ring on his finger, but let's follow them inside, and what do we find? More eating and drinking. The scribes and the pharisees would not have missed that detail.

What can we take away from this parable, especially when we hear it in Lent. One answer is that our own claims to be doing God's will may need to be examined in depth. Are we using them to set up a wall between ourselves and the rest of the human race around us? Have we made ourselves extra-special people, self-righteous people, rather than seeing ourselves as sharing a common humanity with our brothers and sisters?

In Lent, it is time to second-guess our actions. It's a time of self-examination, seeing how we fit into all the relationships that we find ourselves in. And remember that our relationships extend far beyond the narrow confines of our family or our work, in order to embrace our town, our state, our nation, and our world.

By Fr. Frank Wright, SMA

UKRAINE— In response to a request from the SMA house in Warsaw, Poland, the US Province is taking up a collection to assist them in housing and feeding Ukrainian refugees. Accepting funds up and through April 3rd. Checks payable to SMA FATHERS

NOTICE.- The Missionary Franciscan Sisters in Tenaflly will not be hosting The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. We ask that no groups or individuals come on the property at this time as, again, we have Covid-19 concerns. Thank you for your understanding.