



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 Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. Frank Wright

201-567-0450 Ext 225/231

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Frank Wight

201-450-6586

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-256-0450 Ext. 253

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA

551-449-4357

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
9:00am –5:00pm

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of OCTOBER 2, 2022 – OCTOBER 8, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 2	10:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
Mon. Oct. 3	9:30	Augustine Elliott+	
	11:45	Helen Wilson+	Mary Fischbach
Tue. Oct. 4	9:30	Billy Nagle (Liv.)	Mary Ann Pruzinsky
	11:45	Allan Austria (Liv.) Dominick Francisco (Liv.)	Linda Rubio
Wed. Oct. 5	9:30	James Elliott+	
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Thurs. Oct. 6	9:30	Mariana Cho (Birthday) (Liv.)	Sung Choi Family
	11:45	Marleen Martin+	Diane & Mike Bruno
Fri. Oct. 7	9:30	Douglas Edward Elliott+	
	11:45	Jet Allan Viheart+ Dec. Memb. of Lara Family	Linda Rubio
Sat. Oct. 8	9:30	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Ann Costa

Today’s Readings: *First Reading Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4*

The prophet is overwhelmed by all the violence he sees and asks why God tolerates evil deeds.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

Paul teaches that “the spirit of timidity” does not come from God and that we should not be ashamed of our testimony to Jesus Christ.

Gospel Luke 17:5-10

Proximity to Jesus does not guarantee unwavering faith. According to Luke, the ones closest to Jesus believe they need more faith. “Increase our faith,” they plead.

27th Sunday Ordinary Reflection

In these weeks towards the end of the liturgical year, one of the challenges in reading the Gospel of Luke is what I call the problem of the non-sequiturs. All that this fancy word means is that normally in a conversation, or in a text, we expect whatever follows a sentence to be relevant, appropriate, sensible if you will. It should fit with whatever went before. A non-sequitur is something that comes at you out of left field, and you don't quite know what to make of it.

In the part of Luke that we're reading, Jesus has been talking with the Pharisees. They got the full brunt of his pointed comment about God and Mammon, and the story of the rich man and Lazarus to boot. I follow him thus far, but it's what follows after that worries me. In the next section, Jesus is talking with the disciples, and they're worried. They ask for an increase in faith. They have given up everything and are following Jesus. Will that be enough? Will they be saved? And Jesus replies that if they had just a small amount of faith—maybe we can call it a tad of faith, or a dab of faith, or a smidgen of faith—they will be able to do great things.

Is that an appropriate answer? Is his comment an encouragement or a reproof? ... I don't know! ... At this point, I'm hoping that you're asking yourselves what exactly this faith is that Jesus is talking about? I'll give you MY short answer: faith is total dependence on God. ... Unfortunately, it's precisely that virtue or quality that escapes us most of the time. We don't want to depend on God; in fact, we don't want to depend on anyone else besides ourselves. ... Jesus wants us to see that the more we can let go of our fear and our distrust of the God walking with us, the more we can accomplish great things.

Now comes the non-sequitur. 'What master will thank the slave or servant who does what he is supposed to do?' ... Does this relate? ... Well, maybe? ... The FAITHFUL servant is the one who does what he is supposed to do and thinks no more about it. He (or she) has an inward assurance that even though serving in this manner may not make sense, it will make sense in the end. It's a trusting stance, a confident stance even, a self-forgetful stance. The faithful servant doesn't think less of himself, he just thinks of himself less.

Mother Theresa captured the inherent tensions and the ambiguity of interacting with the world this way: she said, "God does not ask us to be successful, but only to be faithful." As trusting servants, we are not afraid of looking into the likelihood of our not succeeding. It doesn't matter. What does matter is to remain dependent on God to see us through.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA