



# 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 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

**Sunday Collection: \$836.**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

### **Administration:**

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

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of OCTOBER 23, 2022 – OCTOBER 29, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Oct. 23	10:00	Tony Pagliano+ (Birthday)	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	12:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Mon. Oct. 24	9:30	Catherine Elliott+	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Tue. Oct. 25	9:30	Teodoro Marasigan+	Josie Martinez
	11:45	Marcelo & Don Tavormina (Liv.)	Family
Wed. Oct. 26	9:30	Ellen Elliott+	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mac Kenny & Family
Thurs. Oct. 27	9:30	Robert Blair+	Pruzinsky Family
	11:45	Diana Colon (Liv.)	John Tietjen
Fri. Oct. 28	9:30	Deacon Keith+	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Rodrigo Bontuyan+	Family
Sat. Oct. 29	9:30	James Elliott+	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend

**ALL SOULS.-** The list with the names of our deceased loved ones will be placed in the main altar for the whole month of November.

## Today’s Readings:

**First Reading** Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14. 16-19

*The Lord hears our prayers and calls us to serve him with all our hearts.*

**Second Reading** 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18

*In all the circumstances of our lives, God is always with us.*

**Gospel** Luke 18:9-14

*It is those who acknowledge their own sin and weakness who are open to receive God’s mercy.*



## 30<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Reflection

### BROKEN-HEARTS

At first glance, this parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector boils down to the usual story of the bad guy and the good guy—the Pharisee, the man who does everything right, is the bad guy; and the tax collector, the man who does everything wrong, is the good guy. ... We recognize this kind of scenario or story line. It's easy to understand. Face it, we're bombarded with westerns, cowboys with white hats and black hats, or crime dramas, with cops and criminals.

But this is Luke writing. And NOTHING is straightforward in the Gospel of Luke. The stories all seem to have a sting in the tail. Standing out from all the other themes in his Gospel is the picture of the “great reversal.” What we expect to have happen doesn't, and anything we thought was unlikely to occur does. In the kingdom of God, the first shall come last, and the last shall come first: the Pharisee, who complies with all the demands of the Law of Moses, goes to the back of the line, and the tax collector, on the other hand, goes home justified, forgiven! He's shunted to the front.

I want you to ignore the Pharisee in this story. In the end, he just isn't very interesting. He's self-satisfied, and self-righteous, and extremely confident of his own worth. He's a rather shallow individual. The tax collector is far more interesting. In my view, he's a rather MODERN figure. Here we have a man who is well aware of the lack of meaning in his own life. As a tax collector, he's in cahoots with the oppressive, Roman, colonial power and all the dishonesty that that role implies. He hasn't done anything right. In short, his life is going nowhere. ... There is honesty, a lack of guile in his prayer. ... And in the end, his story is our own.

The American author Henry David Thoreau put it, “all men lead lives of quiet desperation.” When push comes to shove, we're all holding on by our fingernails. We are all heirs to the human condition. The Pharisee, and all people who think they have life sewn up, are just kidding themselves. We all manage to tie ourselves into KNOTS, and we don't know how to untie them.

The parable is a wake-up call to our complacency. It is, as many Biblical scholars have pointed out, a story about humility. It's also a tale about forgiveness. Looking at it with modern eyes, I think it's a narrative about the human condition in general. We don't have it all together, no matter how much we try to fool ourselves. We are broken-hearted, and the answer is to place ourselves in the hand of God. If nothing else, the parable is a spur to honest prayer.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**MASS INTENTION BOOK:** The book opens on November 1st, 2022.

**PLEASE NOTE: WEEK DAYS.-** Starting the first week of Advent, we will have two Masses (9:30 and 11:45am).