



# 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: \$949.**

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of **OCTOBER 16, 2022 – OCTOBER 22, 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. 16	10:00	Gjin Flora (Liv.)	
	12:00	Special Intentions of the Quinn Family	
Mon. Oct. 17	9:30	Douglas Edward Elliott+	
	11:45	Victor Buntuyan+	Family
Tue. Oct. 18	9:30	Rosalba de Moreno	Family
	11:45	Rosalie Ponte+	Rosanne Ambulo
Wed. Oct. 19	9:30	Beatrice Dapkus Elliott+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Thurs. Oct. 20	9:30	Sungwhan Choi (Birthday) Liv.	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Fri. Oct. 21	9:30	Francis Elliott+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Sat. Oct. 22	9:30	Robert Thomson+	Helen & Jerry Keegan
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend

## Today’s Readings:

### **First Reading Exodus 17:8-13**

*Victory comes to Israel as long as Moses can keep his arms raised.*

### **Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2**

*All scripture is inspired by God and can be used for teaching.*

### **Gospel Luke 18:1-8**

*Jesus teaches his disciples to pray continually and never lose heart.*



## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

### UNJUST JUDGES AND POOR WIDOWS

Keep the parable we have just heard in mind. There is a kind of inverse comparison going on here. Why? Well, if even a person like the unjust judge can be worn down to answer the pleas of the widow and give her justice, then how much MORE would a compassionate, providential God be ready to answer the prayers of his people? That's the point! ... So far, so good! AND YET, we hear this parable in a world full of unjust judges and poor widows. Do the two pictures mesh with each other?

Any deep reflection on the parable must bring an UNSPOKEN question to the surface of our consciousness: does God REALLY, I mean REALLY, answer our prayers? Or is this just a parable for Sunday mornings in church, while the rest of the week we operate with different stories? ... Now, I know the temptation is to say, "GOOD question, but I don't know what an answer to it would look like, do you? How would I really know if God answers my prayers? ... Well, let's take a stab at it. What's the question? Do I have faith in a God who watches my back?

The context of the story is one where issues of social justice come to the fore—judges susceptible to bribes and widows with no one to speak for them. The poor widow stands in for all the marginalized people in the Law of Moses—the poor, the widows, the orphans, the foreigners. The books of Leviticus and Numbers in the Torah come down on the side of these people and declare that God is squarely on THEIR side.

But our question must go beyond this and encompass our whole life and not just the public sphere. Does God answer our needs when we have run through all our cash in the bank and the bills keep pouring in? Does God answer our questions in the ICU of the hospital? Does God answer our prayers when we are disappointed by our children? These are not questions on the periphery of our lives but rather make themselves known to us physically in our bodies. Is God there for us?

I suppose one answer is to choose HOW I tell the story of my life. What do I mean? Do I view my life as a series of blessings, or is it one unmitigated disaster? Choose! If I believe the parable, then I am invited to privilege those times in my past life, when I thought I saw the hand of God at work, when I allowed myself to place my entire trust in God that things would turn out alright; and in fact, that's just what they did. ... Let me admit that my life at times is an ambiguous story. I can work with ambiguity. But then I remind myself, as Hebrews Chapter 11 says, "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." God is at work and answers our pleas.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 8pm.

Join us for a powerful Holy Hour of praise and worship.