



# 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

9:30 am & 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: \$857.00**

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 ADVENT

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 18, 2022 – DECEMBER 24, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Dec. 18	10:00	Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	12:00	Theresa Tietjen+	John Tietjen
Mon. Dec. 19	9:30	Catherine Elliott+	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny
Tue. Dec. 20	9:30	Ellen Elliott+	
	11:45	Anne Keegan+	Mom & Dad
Wed. Dec. 21	9:30	Susan McKay+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Thurs. Dec. 22	9:30	In Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Carmela & Giuseppi Salituro	Enrico Salituro & Filomena Family
Fri. Dec. 23	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Benita Maduramente+	Family
Sat. Dec. 24	9:30	Augustine McQueeny Elliott+	
	11:45	Iacullo, Mauro & Sozio Families	Susan & Bob Iacullo

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

**First Reading** Isaiah 7:10-14

*The people should not put God to the test, but they will be given a miraculous sign.*

**Second Reading** Romans 1: 1-7

*The promise of God is revealed in God's Son and it is his Good News that the faithful are to take out to the world.*

**Gospel** Matthew 1:18-24

*The world is turned upside down but we need not be fearful.*

## Advent 4 Reflection

### WHAT'S IN A NAME

Names tell us something about the person named. The gospels for the Advent and Christmas seasons furnish us with a long list of names for God. Some names are descriptions--Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. These all attempt to tell us who Jesus is by what he does. And then again, we have personal names for God, and these too are not without meaning.

The three readings this morning all focus on the identity of Jesus. Who is he? What does he do? We might say that a name is a word in search of a person and an identity. It can do many things. Maybe it's a kind of sign, indicating a destination, or maybe it's telling us what to expect from this person.

This morning, the name Emmanuel, meaning "God with us", makes its appearance for the first time in the Bible. No one had ever called God by that name before. It was something that Matthew the evangelist came up with all by himself and reflected his own vision of God. Paul, in his turn, tries to answer the same questions. He claims that Jesus is descended by flesh from David the king, and at the same time he proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead. Jesus has a lot to live up to.

The Gospel reading explores the meaning of one more name. Take a look at that first line from Matthew's gospel. "This is how the birth of Jesus (the) Christ came about." Here we meet the name Christ for the first time. Christ means "the anointed one" It's the same meaning as the word Messiah in Hebrew. Jesus is anointed by God for a purpose—to lead, to counsel, to console, to save from futility. These new names—Emmanuel and Christ—shining in their newness, tell us that something new is happening in Jesus Christ that never happened before.

This Advent season, can we hear these names anew? Can we approach the manger in the stable with a sense that something new is happening, not only in the world but also in our own lives? Let me push the envelope here: Can we approach in faith this God 'being with us' such that we no longer rely exclusively on our own ability to plan for the future and to get ourselves out of any difficulties we encounter? ... Can we acknowledge all the blessings we have received from God's providence in our lives?

And since we're talking of names, just remember that the name Jesus means 'Yahweh saves.'

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

### **SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve: 9:30am — 11:45am**

**8:00pm**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day: 10am & 12 Noon**

**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> masses as usual 9:30am and 11:45am**

**The SMA Community wish you all a blessed and holy season.**

**May God bless you and those you love as celebrate.**