



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

Sunday Collection: \$1,326.00

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 4, 2022 – DECEMBER 10, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Dec. 4	10:00	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
	12:00	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Mon. Dec. 5	9:30	Beatrice Dapkus Elliott+	
	11:45	Johanna & Denis Hickey+	Angela Hickey
Tue. Dec. 6	9:30	Ernie Ascrate (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Phil Buffa+ Birthday	Susan & Bob Iacullo
Wed. Dec. 7	9:30	Juliana Lee (Birthday) (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Theresa Tietjen+	John Tietjen
Thurs. Dec. 8	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	SMA FOUNDATION DAY	
Fri. Dec. 9	9:30	John Albrecht+	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Marcelo & Dominic Tavormina (Healing)	Family
Sat. Dec. 10	9:30	Matthew Elliott+	
	11:45	Salvatore DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

The descendant of Jesse will usher in an age of peace such as the world has never known.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

Inspired by the scriptures, Christ's followers are called to be examples of tolerance for the world to follow.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist calls for repentance because the judge is coming.

2nd Advent Reflection

The season of Advent provides not only a temporal space for us to reflect in, but also a physical space, and that physical space is the desert. Think about the desert for a moment: maybe the southwestern United States, maybe the arid Mideast. Myself I recall the region of West Africa known as the Sahel just below the Sahara. I was stationed there as a Peace Corps volunteer fifty years ago--a few stunted trees; some tufts of grass; very little rainfall during most of the year. The desert as a climatic region is stark. It forces you into yourself. If you harbor any illusions about who you are, the desert will soon cure you of them.

As worshippers of the one God, the desert ought to be a familiar place for us—think Exodus. In the Bible, the desert is always a place for purification. The Hebrew children passed through the desert, as they sloughed off the slave mentality that they had acquired in Egypt. They found it impossible to enter the promised land until they could see themselves as a free people. ... In that sense, the desert was the gateway to their salvation. It was a kind of launching pad. Maybe that's why John the Baptist makes his appearance there by the River Jordan.

What is he proclaiming? Well, a baptism of repentance, in the face of the coming judgement! ... What is repentance? Repentance is really a PROCESS of reflection, of taking stock of our lives and freely admitting to ourselves where we have fallen short. It's a process, in which we seek to make amends for all the darkness in our lives. And yes, it IS a process of purification. For that reason, it needs a place of quiet, one without distractions, in order to keep us on track.

I suppose the kind of desert I'm talking about can be a frightening place. We don't relish the thought of facing our own demons. The process requires honesty, and that honesty can be a hard-won commodity. Tearing down the false images of the world and of our lives that we have constructed can be a daunting task. Do we have faith in God? Are we obedient to God? Are we doing God's will? As you can see, the ax is laid to the root. In the desert, we meet God face to face.

We shy away from going to places that frighten us. Preachers from their pulpits have taken advantage of this fact to scare the living daylights out of us, ... but really if the desert is the launching pad for our salvation, then the coming judgement is something to be hoped for, to await with longing: valleys will be filled; mountains will be leveled; roads will be made straight; and the justice of God will spread over the land. In the countdown to Christmas, let us be part of this process.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

NOTICE.- Each Saturday of Advent, we are offering an Advent Reflection at 11:15am prior to the 11:45am Mass.

MASS INTENTION BOOK: The 2023 book for announced Masses is open.

SMA Foundation day.- (166th Anniversary) - Mass honoring our founder **Venerable Bishop Melchior de Brèsillac**, will take place on **Thursday, December 8th** (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) at **11:45am**.

NEXT SATURDAY.– December 10th HOLY HOUR at 8pm. Join us.