



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

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: \$

Thank you for your support.
Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of JANUARY 1, 2023 – JANUARY 7, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 1	10:00	Matilde Foti+	Angela & Roger Gussoni
	12:00	Deceased Family Members of Rubio & Lara Family	
Mon. Jan. 2	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Tue. Jan. 3	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Desrochers Family	
	11:45	In Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
Wed. Jan. 4	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Ernest Clement+	Family
Thurs. Jan. 5	9:30	Sr. Anne Hamil (Living)	Sister
	11:45	Steven Isaacson+	O'Toole Family
Fri. Jan. 6	9:30	Billy Hickey+	Family
	11:45	Conrad Bing & Perla Roque+	
Sat. Jan. 7	9:30	John & Eileen Ryan+	Brita Walsh
	11:45	Steven Isaacson+	Lacey Family

Today's Readings:

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27

We are beloved and blessed by God our Father.

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7

As adopted children of God our Father, we are sisters and brothers in Christ.

Gospel Luke 2:16-21

Following the angelic announcement of his birth, the shepherds come to visit the infant Jesus. Mary treasures all these events in her heart.

Happy New Year from all the SMA Fathers at the Mission !

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Reflection

In talking about Mary, we keep coming back to that Latin word FIAT, spoken by her to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation. FIAT, or let it be done, or let it happen, or so be it, is a word of willingness. It's a word of trust. It's a word of risk. This last statement may surprise you, but it is nevertheless true. Mary was taking a big risk. In her society, to have a child out of wedlock was shameful and exposed a woman to the harsh realities of the Jewish Law. Her risk was like a blank check.

Joseph's reaction is an interesting one. He was probably shamed by the idea that his betrothed wife was bearing a child that was not his. He wanted to divorce her quietly, hoping to avoid the ensuing scandal. What to do? Well, in the end, prompted by an angel, he decides to go ahead with the marriage. He too was taking a risk. What was he getting himself into?

We are on the cusp of the New Year today. When I was growing up, I never really liked New Year's Day. First of all, because all the fun of Christmas was over. We had to go back to school the next day in a snowy January. What lay ahead of us was unknown. The future with all its challenges threatened to swallow us alive with uncertainty and with the threat of not being able to cope. In addition, we made New Year's resolutions that we never intended to keep.

I've adopted a more optimistic perspective since then on what the future might hold. Now, I'm willing to admit that it is JUST possible that things will turn out all right. Maybe my changed attitude reflects a new method of risk management, but maybe my acceptance to get up in the morning reflects a willingness to welcome the unexpected and go with the flow.

Theresa Hicks, one of our lay missionaries, who oversaw the formation program for them for years, often repeated the words, "Surprise, surprise." Why? Because life on the missions can be a succession of surprises, but more fundamentally, because our God is a God of surprises, to whom we have to pay attention.

This year, let us trust in the future, at least to the extent of drawing up a list of New Year's resolutions. My lists once covered thirteen pages. I don't think I have the energy to write that many this year, but maybe if I write just one page, with God's help, they might become a reality.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

THANK YOU.- We thank you for your unfailing generosity and support to the SMA and its mission. Thank you to all those who donated for our Christmas flowers and to those who sent Christmas cards, messages and goodies.

May the Lord continue to bless you all!