



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

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 25, 2022 – DECEMBER 31, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Dec. 25	10:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
	12:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Mon. Dec. 26	9:30	Gertrude Burns Elliott+	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Tue. Dec. 27	9:30	Braulio Monroy+	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. Dec. 28	9:30	Joseph Elliott+	
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ & Alex Boce+	Linda Rubio
Thurs. Dec. 29	9:30	Special Intentions of Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Fri. Dec. 30	9:30	Bill Moran+	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Ruth Kane+	Marilyn & Rich
Sat. Dec. 31	9:30	Catherine McQueeney Elliott+	
	11:45	Ong Kim+ Rosa Mendoza+	Linda Rubio

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

The prophet announces good news: the birth of the Messiah, who heralds peace.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

In past ages God spoke to us through prophets, but now speaks to us through God's Son, the radiant light of God's glory.

Gospel John 1:1-18

St John declares that the Word of God, the light that enlightens everyone, has come into the world, to give us power to become children of God.

May the Infant Jesus pour out His grace upon each of you.

Christmas blessings to you all!

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

When I was much younger, my mother told me that Silent Night could only be sung on Christmas Eve. It was then or never! Why only then? Well, Christmas Eve, with its stars in the sky, and the peculiar quiet that comes along with night-time cold in December, somehow brought together everything that was most holy about Christmas.

Silent Night is a lullaby. I call it, and all the other lullabies that we sing at Christmas time, the hymnbook of the incarnation. Christ took on our nature; he took on the human condition; he took on our vulnerability. That's what incarnation is all about.

Of course, we have other ways to talk about incarnation. On Christmas Day we have the prologue from the Gospel of John. "In the beginning was the word, ... and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us." This passage has the entire energy-filled universe as backdrop. I'm not sure what kind of song, or even hymn, we can match with this reading. Maybe something on the organ with all the stops pulled out. The fact is that the scale is too large to find musical expression.

But when our lives are in turmoil, it isn't to John's prologue that we have recourse. Personally, I keep going back to Luke's gospel reading on the birth of Christ. In order to understand the incarnation, I need to have something on a smaller scale than the universe. I keep going back to the story of a child born in a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire, a child who grew up and faced the same ethical questions that you and I face. That's something I can get my head around.

In the first chapter of Genesis, we see God create Adam, the first human being, out of the dust of the earth. We are told that God created us in the image and likeness of God. At Christmas time, something more happens. We receive a new dignity, because God himself has become one of us. Don't pass over this statement too lightly. This idea is very important, because it explains why we Catholics go on and on about the dignity of the human person, born and unborn, poor and rich, educated and uneducated, able bodied or with a disability. Our entire corpus of ethical discourse finds its roots in Christmas and the manger.

"Silent Night", and all the other lullabies, are not sentimental. They are potentially revolutionary and life-changing. It was on this night that humanity itself was born anew in the person of Jesus Christ. When we surround our Christmas Eve celebration with starlit quiet, sacred stillness, and reverence, let us remember why.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

MEMORIAL DONATION.- The Altar Bread & Wine this week is donated by Rich & Marilyn in memory of Ruth Kane.



The SMA Community wish you all a blessed and peaceful New Year!