



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: \$1060

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JANUARY 29, 2023 – FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 29	10:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	12:00	John Hamill+	Daughter
Mon. Jan. 30	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Arturo Benemerito+	Guinto Family
Tue. Jan. 31	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Anthony Cortez (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
Wed. Feb. 1	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Feb. 2	9:30	Gilberto Guinto (Good Health) Liv.	Guinto Family
	11:45	Daniel Thorpe+	Porto & Thorpe Family
Fri. Feb. 3	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Carey Joyce+	Michelle Sullivan
Sat. Feb. 4	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Family	
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend

Today's Readings:

First Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

The day of judgement will leave a humble remnant to enjoy the earth in peace.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

In choosing “nobodies”, God makes a nonsense of our human scale of values.

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus teaches that only a life of integrity can bring true and lasting happiness.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Reflection

THE REMNANT

If there was one sentence that caught my ear this morning it was “But I shall leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly.” ... I don’t know if you glommed on to this sentence or not. ... The reason these words from Zepheniah the Prophet caught MY attention is that there are a lot of people nowadays who go around bandying this phrase around. “The remnant, the remnant. We are the remnant.” I don’t know if you’ve noticed them, but they’re becoming noisier by the day.

There are Protestant churches that call themselves “The Remnant” with a capital R. The implication is that the rest of the Protestants, and naturally we Catholics as well, are all going to hell. No doubt! There are Catholics who go around using this term and this concept: they want a smaller church and a purer church, just for themselves so they can go inside and lock the door. The rest of us will be outside, looking in through the stained-glass windows. Not a strategy for Church unity, but who knows? Maybe they’re right! Maybe it’s time for all of us to sign on the dotted line!

How can we figure it all out? How can WE know if we would make the cut? ... Well, to find out who the remnant is, I think the reading from Matthew, which we heard this morning, the Sermon on the Mount, might be the key to answering this question. Go back to that reading in your memory. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.” If we don’t have a drop of mercy and compassion on our tongue and in our soul, let’s face it, we’re probably not part of Zepheniah’s remnant. “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Because if we are not peacemakers in our family, workplace, community, and world, we just might not make the cut. I could go through the entire sermon in similar fashion, but you get the idea.

We have just finished the week of prayer for Christian Unity, in which the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops participates. It ends on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, January 25th. Two themes are important here, and both are pertinent to our question: the first is conversion. We are ALWAYS on the road to conforming ourselves to the cross of Christ. If getting through the door of the Remnant Church was a question of being perfect, the church would be empty. The second theme is unity: Paul stressed this in the reading we heard last Sunday. We can’t make the journey all by ourselves. We need each other. All attempts at building holy walls around us have mistaken the road for the end of the journey. If there is a take-away from the readings today, both Zepheniah and the Gospel of Matthew, it is this: Be humble, and don’t make too big a deal of your own righteousness.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

Sympathy.- The SMA Community is saddened by the death of Michele Randall. She worked at our office for many years before she moved to Florida.

Our sincerest sympathy to Max and Jessica and all her family and friends.