



# 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: \$1440**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

#### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 5, 2023 – FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Feb. 5	10:00	Grace & Joseph Abbadessa+	Addadessa Family
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Feb. 6	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Mary Tietjen+	The Family
Tue. Feb. 7	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Avelino De Guzman+	Guinto Family
Wed. Feb. 8	9:30	Richard Asadourian+	
	11:45	Julian & Maria Gomez	Guinto Family
Thurs. Feb. 9	9:30	Victor A. Migliaccio+	Maureen Migliaccio-Rega
	11:45	Victoria Gonzalez+	Guinto Family
Fri. Feb. 10	9:30	Aggoero & Laura Passarelli+	Enrico & Filomena Passarelli
	11:45	Robert Murphy+ Robert McDermott+	Susan Doonan Murphy
Sat. Feb. 11	9:30	Catherine M Migliaccio+	Maureen Migliaccio-Rega
	11:45	Rufina Albamento+ Marlyn Roy Benedeto+	

## Today’s Readings:

**First Reading** Isaiah 58:7-10

*If we are prepared to share even life’s essentials with others and to act with justice, then we will be very close to God.*

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

*Our faith should not be placed in human wisdom, but in God’s power.*

**Gospel** Matthew 5:13-16

*If we are truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world, people should be able to see Jesus alive and active in us.*

## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

If there is one theme, one image, that dominates the readings this morning, it is that of LIGHT. The theme of light permeates, or soaks into, both the first reading from Isaiah and the continuation of the Sermon of the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. But I want you to notice something: there's an important difference between how the two authors talk about the light: Isaiah says, "If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusations, and malicious speech, if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, THEN light shall rise for you in the darkness."

But when we look at the Gospel, Matthew says, "Just so, YOUR light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." We go from receiving the light, the dawning of a new day, to being the light ourselves. ... That's quite a change! Kind of scary really! Presumptuous even! What do you mean, "I'm the light?" What could Jesus possibly have meant, when he told his listeners that THEY were the light of the world?

Of course, in this day and age, if you pay attention to the newsfeed, to the TV, even to the weather report, everyone is vying for attention; everyone is willing to say something shocking if only to catch the public eye. Everybody is letting his little light shine. Reality shows, celebrities, sports figures, Jeopardy stars—my what a noisy world we live in--it all becomes very tacky, the kind of behavior my mother would never have let us get away with.

I don't think that's what either Isaiah or Matthew had in mind. Letting your light shine is not about transforming yourself into a Christmas tree. It's not about you; it's not about me either! Letting your light shine is about taking responsibility for those around you, and not just in your family circle or your workplace. It extends to taking responsibility for all the people we see on the street in this anonymous city of ours. It means taking responsibility for all the people we see on that newsfeed, or on the TV. It means taking responsibility for all the people we DON'T see. ...

I can see your eyes rolling. When is he going to stop? I've got enough on my plate for me. Well, taking responsibility for others does not assume that you or I control the world we live in. Far from it! Over time, I have noticed that I have very little power to influence world events, national events, city or state events, and often my-own-life events. (More's the pity!) Taking responsibility means picking up my little piece of our common task, relying on others to do the same, and counting on God to do the rest.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**Sympathy.-** The SMA Community send our sympathy to Veronica Jackson and family in the passing of her mother Mrs. Faye Rae Jackson. May She Rest in Peace.

And also to the Asadourian Family in the passing of Mr. Richard Asadourian. May He Rest in Peace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.