



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

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
9:00am –5:00pm

Sunday Collection: \$1,010

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 19, 2023 – FEBRUARY 25, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 19	10:00	Norman & Clifford Tavares+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Erlinda Flores+ & James Fox	Lucy Sumbilla-LiPuma
Mon. Feb. 20	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Holy Souls+	Victoria Costa
Tue. Feb. 21	9:30	Bill Moran+ Anniversary	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Wed. Feb. 22	9:30	Intentions for The Higley Family (Liv.)	Fe Vela
	11:45	Eva Miraflores+ & Ludivina Gali+	
Thurs. Feb. 23	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	Wife Charlotte Desrochers
	11:45	Special Intentions of Fr Dermot Roache	Hanna, Gerry & Mary Lee
Fri. Feb. 24	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Dorothy Stimpfel+	Breda Walsh
Sat. Feb. 25	9:30	Jessica Lee (Birthday) (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Robert Murphy+	Susan Doonan-Murphy

Today's Readings: *First Reading* Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 *The book of Leviticus can seem rather dry. It begins with the command to be as holy as God. This is an impossible command, but the point is to allow God to live that holiness within us by making space for God in our lives.*

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 *Paul writes to the Corinthians, a community made up of common people with no pretensions to greatness. He reminds them that their dignity comes from being temples of God.*

Gospel Matthew 5:38-48 *Jesus sets out the implications of living as his disciples. He reminds us that God gives the same grace to good and bad people alike. The choice is ours, on a daily basis, whether to respond to it or not.*

NOTE: Wednesday, February 22, marks the beginning of Lent.

Masses at 9:30am, 11:45am and 6:00pm

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

LENT IN A TIME OF WEARINESS

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching, and we have to scrape up the energy to enter once again into its penitential season. ... I'm not sure I have the energy to do that anymore. What with Chinese weather balloons, a worsening situation in the Ukraine, the constant vying for attention by politicians on the right and the left, and a faltering economy, not to mention the ups and downs in my own life, I don't think I can enter into the season whole-heartedly. Or, to put it another way, my heart's just not in it. Yeats, the Irish poet, had it right, when he said, "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold."

There are temptations aplenty in that kind of situation: we might be tempted to double down on our observance and our reflections and blame ourselves for all the things that are wrong in the world. Go to town big-time with sackcloth and ashes.

It gets worse: we can latch on to the idea that somehow God is punishing us for our misdeeds. Folks, that is a NO-GO area. Why? Because it is contrary to what the Church teaches. While disasters may happen in our lives, sometimes even caused by ourselves, God does not make people sick, cause them to lose their jobs, or destroy their marriages. Ours is not a punishing God. ... I'm not barking up the wrong tree here; many people wander around with just this idea.

Lent in a time of weariness is a time to sit down (Yes, sit down!), take stock of where we are, and do so realistically. When we talk to God, we should neither paint ourselves as angels, nor should we portray ourselves as devils. In most cases, we're just average, garden variety sinners. To pretend otherwise is just as false to the spirit of Lent as is sin itself.

Living in a time of weariness is not unique. People have passed this way before. Simone Weil, French Jewish and Christian mystic, back at the beginning of World War II wrote, "We are living in times that have no precedent. ... Today, it is not nearly enough merely to be a saint, but we must have the saintliness demanded by the present moment, a new saintliness, also without precedent."

Our observance of Lent, our soul searching to ascertain how we have fallen short of the love of God, has to be "down to earth." And I am using that expression with all the meaning I can cram into it. The times without precedent that we are living through ask us to think of ourselves as world citizens, stewards of the earth we inhabit, peacemakers in a world of chaos, embodiments of Gospel values, and members of the Body of Christ..

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

CONDOLENCES.- The SMA Community is saddened by the death of our long time friend and member of the Knights of Columbus, Dumont, George DiCostanzo. He passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Our prayers are with his wife, Nina and the DiCostanzo Family. May God grant him eternal rest.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.- There will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel each Friday during Lent at 7:00pm

LENTEN REFLECTION.- There will be short Lenten reflections on the Saturdays during Lent at 11:15am before the 11:45am Mass.

Message.- Fr Dermot Roache's surgery went well. Thank you for your prayers, thoughts and support.