



# 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

#### S.M.A. Museum

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

#### Sunday Collection: \$1068

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

#### **Administration:**

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

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
 House Superior

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Masses for the week of MARCH 5, 2023 – MARCH 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. March 5	10:00	Matilde Foti+	Angela and Roger Gussoni
	12:00	Peter Quinn+	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. March 6	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	Charlotte Desrochers
	11:45	Peter Quinn+ Happy Birthday in Heaven	Mary Quinn & Family
Tue. March 7	9:30	Teresa Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
	11:45	Gerardo Sozio+	Susan Iacullo
Wed. March 8	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	John Paladino+	Martha Paladino
Thurs. March 9	9:30	Laura & Assoero Passarelli+	The Salituro’s
	11:45	Lucy Cutro+	Family
Fri. March 10	9:30	George DiCostanzo+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Cresencia Martinez+	Josie Martinez
Sat. March 11	9:30	Thanksgiving Salve Avenido & Connie Belandres (Liv.)	Josie Martinez
	11:45	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh

### **Today’s Readings:**

*First Reading Genesis 12:1-4*

*When God calls Abram, it is a life-changing moment, for he is asked to leave everything that he knows.*

*Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8-10*

*Paul tells Timothy that Jesus brings us the Good News, but following him can come at a price.*

*Gospel Matthew 17:1-9*

*The wondrous sight of Christ in glory also inspires fear in the apostles.*

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

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

This Sunday's gospel is about glory. If you were asked to define it, you might have a hard time, maybe because it's a concept that lends itself more easily to images than it does to words. What can we say? We know that glory is something bigger than us. However, what we have to do, any time that we run across the word "glory" in the Scriptures, is to ask to what purpose or what use this glory is being put. How does it function in the passage we're considering?

A quick answer that leaps to the tongue is to say that the glory of the Lord testifies to the truthfulness of what is being proclaimed. That is certainly part of the purpose in today's passage from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus appears in his glory, alongside Elijah and Moses (the Law and the Prophets); and consequently, the disciples knew that their faith in the message of Jesus, and in Jesus himself, was well-founded.

How does this work in our consciousness, in our experience? Maybe it's what some people term an "aha" moment. You know what I mean? That moment when the meaning of everything—the universe around us, the world under our feet, and the meaning of our lives—all comes into focus. We intuit that there is a rightness in the moment. These can occur anywhere. When the disciples saw Jesus transfigured, they knew that what they had been doing in following Jesus was on the right path.

Well, believe you me, they would need it! Shortly afterwards, they would need the kind of reassurance that this vision offered: when Jesus was led to judgement by Pilate, pushed along the road to Calvary bearing his cross, and murdered by the Romans. When the world is upside down, you need a lot of reassurance that you're on the right path. They would need it, when each of them faced his own death, either by crucifixion or by beheading.

In our own lives, we need to pay attention to the "aha" moments. We might not be given a vision like the Transfiguration, but God talks to us, and God talks to us in the depths of our own miseries and our own troubles. When that happens, what we need to do is pay attention and hold on. We need to be so reassured that we are on the right path that it won't matter what particular road life has forced us to take.

In Lent, coming to terms with our own doubts, with our own sense of futility, with our own feeling that the world is out of control—I think that's part of the challenge. The feelings and intuitions that I'm referring to, during most of the year, we can try to bury, but in Lent, we're asked to go deeper into the reality that surrounds us. Reassurance, in the face of the questions of our lives, is most certainly one of the purposes of the Transfiguration in this passage.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

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