



# Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue  
 Tenafly, NJ 07670  
 Phone: 201-567-0450  
 Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)



## Mass Schedule

### Sundays

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

### Weekdays & Holy Days

8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:45 am

### Christmas & New Year's Day

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

## Confessions

Saturdays 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

## Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Anbu Kumar

201-567-0450 Ext 204

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### Rosary

Every Wednesday at 11:00 am

Followed by Mass, Adoration  
 and Benediction at 5:30 pm

## The Little Way of St. Therese of

### Lisieux

2nd Sundays after 12 pm Mass

## Bible Reflection Group

Thursdays: 7:30 pm in the hall

## Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday  
 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

## S.M.A. Vocation Office

Theresa Hicks, Lay Associates  
 201-496-8394

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA Priesthood

201- 894-8611

SUNDAY COLLECTION: \$1,685.

Thank you for your support.



## 15th week in Ordinary time

### Masses for the week of July 16-22

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY:
Sun. to Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. July 16	10:00	Margaret and Denise Hickey+	Hickey Family
	12:00	Gino Pico+	Sister
Mon. Jul. 17	9:30	Carmela & Giuseppi Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
	11:45	Alice Supper+ 57th Anni. death & Ann Kurpiel+ 102nd birthday	Michelle Supper
Tues. Jul. 18	9:30	Robert Feulner+	Bob and Kathy Jaeger
	11:45	John Murphy	Winnie Grealish
Wed. Jul. 19	9:30	Kowal and Skrzat Families+	Barbara and Joe Mulheren
	11:45	Jack and Anna Michael+	Veronica McDonagh
Thur. Jul. 20	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	Ben & Mely Ramirez (Liv.) Thanksgiving	Mely and Ben Ramirez
Fri. Jul. 21	9:30	Felicitas Garcia+	Linda Rubio
	11:45	Mario Sirois+	His sister
Sat. July 22	9:30	Maria Valdes+	Friends
	11:45	John O'Meara+	McGowans

## Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 55:10-11 God's word succeeds in what it is sent to do.

**Second Reading** Romans 8:18-23 We ourselves and the whole of creation retain the hope of freedom and glory.

**Gospel** Matthew 13:1-23 Christ, the Word of God, the seed of the sower, produces an astonishing crop.

We congratulate Jimmy Neary who was the recipient of the **Alexander Hamilton Immigrant Achievement award** this gone 4th of July. He has been recognized as an migrant who has made outstanding contribution to his city and country.

## Keep Listening for a Great Harvest

Rev. Fr. Nelson SMA

Jesus' parable in the gospel of today sounds rather incredible. A serious and sensible sower would sow the seeds where they will produce a harvest, he would sow on fertile soil. But a careful look at the sower in the parable shows that he is a careless sower. He didn't mind where the seeds would fall because some seeds fell on the edge of the path and were eaten up by birds, some fell on patches of rock and others fell among thorns. That is fruitless sowing, not fruitful sowing. It is futile not fertile sowing. But obviously some fell on rich soil and brought out their crops, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Jesus astonishingly ended the parable with this statement: "whoever has ears must listen." And even now as we listen to the story, we may be asking whether the sower was wasting his time and effort and the seeds or not. Why bother one's self sowing seeds that will end up as bird food? Why bother sowing seeds that will not germinate or that will eventually be choked and die?

But what we learn in life and must continue to learn is that nothing goes wasted, because to every action there is a reaction. There may be delay in the reaction through distraction or obstruction by resistance and opposition, but there will still be a reaction.

The usage of words is one characteristic of this action and reaction. Words are not cheap but they are effective. Words have the power to ignite an explosion. And even more so is the Word of God. The 1st reading tells us that God's Word does not return to Him empty without carrying out His will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

It's true that when God speaks, it's like we have some difficulty hearing Him. But as it is said practice makes perfect so it could be that, as practicing Catholics, we will gradually be close to being perfect. We come for Mass every week or daily, we hear God's Word in the scripture readings, but does it have any effect on us?

One day a man told his wife: "I will stop going for Mass because I listen to the readings, I hear the priests preach but I can't remember anything. It is of no benefit to me. So I will stop going for Mass". The wife replied after thinking for a while and said: "Then I will stop cooking for you! Because you are not able to remember what you ate yesterday and the day before, you are only getting fat and it's not good for you. So I will stop cooking for you".

That maybe also be our own life story. We feel that nothing is happening to us, even as we try to listen to God. But God will continue to talk to us, He will not stop speaking to us because His Word is at work in us everyday. And God's Word will never return to Him empty without carrying out His will and succeeding in what it was sent to do. God wants us to keep listening, and He will change the story of our lives. It may sound unbelievable but that is the truth of the power of God's Word. We have the ears and the heart, let us therefore listen to the Word of God, keep it always in our hearts and produce a great harvest.

Not to get too corny, but it is a good idea to keep our ears open. People came from the four **corners** of the earth to hear Jesus. Some of the Pharisees said of Jesus, "Here today, corn tomorrow." This is the reason we cornfide in priests. Shucking!! I'll Husk up now. [Sorry about this, but I couldn't resist] **BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE**

I did a theatrical performance on puns. It was a play on words. What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back for seconds. What do you do with a dead chemist? You barium. I bet the person who created the door knocker won a **Nobel prize**. Towels can't tell jokes. They have a dry sense of humor. Two birds are sitting on a perch and one says "Do you smell fish?" Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing but des brie.

A horse is a very stable animal. If you hear it from the horse's mouth you're listening to a neigh sayer. There were three horses on a ship including a sick bay. After the horse ate all of his hay he had a baleful look about him. One horse said to another: your pace is familiar but I don't remember the mane. Sign at a deer crossing: The Buck Stops Here. A zoo had a camel with no humps named 'Humphrey.' He bought a donkey because he thought he might get a kick out of it. Male deer have buck teeth. The best way to stop a charging bull is to take away his credit card. When a cow gives birth she not only gives cream, she is de-calf-inated.

Now I need to go to cornfession for this foolishness, hope I have not field you.