



# 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: \$1,648.

Thank you for your support.

Vocations are born in the  
 family and the faith of the  
 family So let's do it.



PRAY!!!!

Local and Provincial superior:

Fr. Michael Moran, SMA.

If you invite one of our priests  
 out to perform a sacramental  
 function please make sure he is  
 informed. 201-567-0450 x 218

## 24th week in Ordinary time

### Masses for the week of Sept 17-Sept. 23

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Sept 17	10:00	Emma & Reinhard Tietjen+	Family
	12:00	Margaret Kowalski+	Barbara & Joe Mulheren
Mon. Sept 18	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	James McGoldrick+	
Tues. Sept 19	9:30	Dec. Mem. Abitante & Falotico Fam.	
	11:45	Pedro Cabrera+	Zeolita Cabrera
Wed. Sept 20	9:30	Dec. Mem. Lo Casto Fam.	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	11:45	Mr. & Mrs John Moccio+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thur. Sept 21	9:30	M. J. Mulheren+	Barbara & Joe Mulheren
	11:45	Zachary Rex Pacia (Liv)	Minene
Fri. Sept 22	9:30	Mario Fata+	Aleksandra Fata
	11:45	Joseph Kurpiel sr 33yrs & Joseph Kurpiel jr. 20 yrs.	Michelle Supper
Sat. Sept 23	9:30	Cuddihy, Bruno & New Families+	Family
	11:45	Mary Reynolds+	Vicari Family

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

The Lord deplotes resentment and anger, which can be readily found in sinners. Mercy and forgiveness are found in God's faithful followers.

**Second Reading** Romans 14:7-9 Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

**Gospel** Matthew 18:21-35 Jesus uses the parable of the unmerciful servant to urge forgiveness and mercy.

### Announcements:

Raffle tickets for the drawing on Dec. 2nd are now available. The ticket costs \$5 and 1st prize is \$2,200 gift certificate from Liberty Travel and second prize is an iphone 7plus. So if you are looking to travel take a chance. Contact Ms. Paladino if you want more information.

On September 30th there will be an evening of Karaoke. Tickets are on sale now. So if you like to sing get your ticket.

### **Illustration**

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind." Yet how hard it is not to seek revenge, and instead to choose to forgive, when a person has wounded you deeply. Among extraordinary stories of forgiveness, Margaret and Barry Mizen's ability to forgive the young man who killed their son stands out. Jimmy Mizen was killed the day after he turned sixteen in May 2008. He and his older brother Harry were waiting in a local bakery in South London when Jimmy stood up to another customer who barged past them. The nineteen-year-old was angry and threw a glass dish, which cut into Jimmy's neck, fatally wounding him.

Margaret Mizen says of that day: "The house was full of people and the table stacked with food people brought over. There was this immense outpouring of grief but with it came a huge outpouring of love too. As terrible as this tragedy was, we felt blessed to have so much love in our lives. Love and prayer is what kept us going. For me forgiveness is about not wanting revenge and not being angry. I'm not shouting from the rooftop 'I forgive' but by not wanting revenge I have an inner peace that a lot of people in our position don't seem to have. Jimmy's murder has done a lot of damage to this family and I can't let it do any more."

Her husband Barry explained further: "For me, forgiveness means I don't want to do to Jimmy's killer what he did to Jimmy. And I thank God for that. I don't want retribution. I don't want revenge. In the end, if I want to live in a more peaceful, compassionate society then I have to be more peaceful and compassionate."

### **Gospel Teaching**

In today's Gospel Peter asks Jesus about forgiveness. Jewish tradition limited forgiveness to three times, so Peter thought his willingness to forgive seven times would be regarded as generous. Peter's question indicated that he still wanted to count how many times he should forgive. Jesus is, in effect, telling him not to count. Jesus stresses the importance of forgiveness, that a person cannot expect mercy from God if there has not been the same generosity of spirit demonstrated towards others. He uses the parable of the unmerciful servant to urge forgiveness and mercy. As we say so often in the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us".

Jesus talks about forgiving seventy-seven times, but it is not the mathematics that matters. What Jesus describes is vast and cosmic, a forgiveness permeating all creation, making all things new. Refusal to forgive will make it impossible for us to understand and experience the generous forgiveness of God for us.

### **Application**

The Roman philosopher Seneca wrote: "The sins of others are before our eyes, our own are behind our backs." We all know we should forgive, but that doesn't mean it's easy to do so, especially when a person has wronged us in a terrible way. Withholding forgiveness can cause a toxic cloud to hang over our lives and prevent us from truly finding joy. Refusal to forgive can consume the heart and drain the energy. Forgiveness does not tolerate revenge. Learning to let go and forgive will heal our souls and help us to find happiness in this life. Experiencing God's generous mercy transforms who we are and the way we see our lives. We can recognise the blessings given to us. We cannot heal ourselves by clinging to our wounds. And neither can we contribute to the repairing of the world without practising forgiveness.

The practice of forgiveness can both soften our own hearts and transform the world community. We often hear about peace processes in various countries. In every case, each party must listen sympathetically to the stories of the other, overcome misunderstandings and exaggerations, recognise its own misdeeds and begin to forge common links. The spirit of forgiveness is essential for the preservation of human community, whether in the home, the neighbourhood, the nation or the world. The strongest motive is the realisation of our own great need of forgiveness and of the extremes to which God has gone in order to bring us the healing we need. C.S Lewis said: "To be Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." (*The Living Word*)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Mike Murphy and all the family for the passing of his wife Ann. She passed away Friday evening. Rest assured we will remember her and the family in our masses and prayers here.