



Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
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: 1,275.

Thank you for your support.

CHRIST THE KING

Masses for the week of Nov. 26-Dec. 2

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Nov. 26	10:00	Kenny Ascrate+	Erlinda Cortez
	12:00	Carmen Allan & Baldicanas Castillo+	Linda Rubio
Mon. Nov. 27	9:30	Maureen Hamill+	Sister Catherine
	11:45	Chan Woo+	Maria Chung
Tue. Nov. 28	9:30	Josefina Martinez-Thanksgiving and Birthday (Liv)	Josefina Martinez
	11:45	Dominador Guinto+	Fely Guinto
Wed. nov. 29	9:30	M. J. Mulheren+	Barbara & Joe Mulheren
	11:45	Patrick O'Neill+	Winnie Grealish
Thurs. Nov. 30	9:30	Patrick Blewitt+	Ann Marie Loughlin
	11:45	Suresh Victor Birthday	
Fri. Dec. 1	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Fam.	
	11:45	Special Int. Stoever, Mongiello Fam.	
Sat. Dec. 2	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Fam.	
	11:45	Mauricia Bontuyan+	Family

Today's Readings

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17 Ezekiel's image of the Lord as a shepherd of the sheep is one that Jesus uses on many occasions, even in the vision of the last judgement which Matthew presents to us today.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28 With Christ's death, death itself is conquered. Now the way is open for all of us to be raised up as members of the kingdom he will hand over to the Father.

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 In this last judgement passage we have the ultimate criterion by which we are judged: the willingness to recognise Christ in everyone

Altar Bread and Wine this week in memory of the Pagulayan Family

The SMA Dinner Dance is **THIS SATURDAY**. Make sure you have reserved your place for that night. You can't miss it! A few tickets are still available. Please call (201) 567-0450 Ext. 239

Illustration

In the autumn of 1974, Mother Teresa of Calcutta visited Britain to thank the many people who were responding so generously to her work. This was the result of a BBC documentary about her Missionaries of Charity, entitled *Something Beautiful for God*. Now picture this diminutive nun in Durham Cathedral, her head only just peeping over the huge pulpit, yet holding a packed congregation spellbound. She had chosen for her subject Matthew's last judgement passage, which we have heard today, and she kept returning to the question, which became a kind of refrain throughout her talk: "Do you really know who your neighbour is?" She was eminently practical, acknowledging that for the majority of the congregation, the possibility of being able to pack up and go to Calcutta and work with her there was a non-starter. But she was at pains to remind us that we did not need to go to Calcutta to find our poor brothers and sisters in need of our help.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus knew the Hebrew scriptures well. He would have been familiar with today's psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd"; he would have been familiar with Ezekiel's description of the Lord as a true shepherd to all the sheep, bandaging the wounded and making the weak strong as well as watching over the healthy. Matthew records Jesus telling us about the shepherd who goes in search of the stray, leaving the ninety-nine others while he does so. And of course he tells us that Jesus returned to this image when describing the final judgement, which we will all have to face. The message is unambiguous. We are the Lord's flock and he will do everything he can to look after us, but love is reciprocal and we are called to return his love. The choice is ours: either we can be part of his flock, which will ultimately make us not just sheep to be looked after, but brothers and sisters of the Lord and therefore shepherds in our own right; or we can stray off for good and join the goats, the unredeemed, those who believe they can save themselves.

Application

There is a temptation to view the last judgement as some kind of final examination, which we either pass or fail and which we approach in trepidation, hoping that we will have done enough to sneak into heaven. Haunted by such an understanding, we may view the moral life as a kind of game, which we play with God or which God plays with us. But, for all the sufferings we endure and the sins we commit, God's judgement is not some kind of lottery. It is worth noting that St John, whose Gospel was written much later than the three synoptic Gospels, recalls Jesus advising us that the judgement has already taken place: "I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words, and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life."

This rather enriching view of the last judgement brings us neatly back to St Teresa of Calcutta, for here we have a saint of our time, who lived out before our eyes this vision, recognising that the sole criterion by which we will be judged is the recognition of Christ in our neighbour. So, can we answer her question: "Do you really know who your neighbour is?" In Durham Cathedral she warned everyone that it is all too easy to have great plans on God's behalf to reach out to a broken world, while at the same time being oblivious to the person in our own family or religious community who is crying out for help. How we judge ourselves here and now may help us to prepare well for the final accounting.

Last year we had our Year of Mercy, inspired by the desire of Pope Francis that we be a compassionate Church, looking out for one another and sharing in the ministry of shepherding one another into the kingdom. Indeed he encouraged the clergy to live "with the smell of the sheep", but there is no reason why we should not extend that invitation to everyone, for there is the rub. Once we have encountered the Lord and been baptised, we are already living the new life of the kingdom and sharing in his priestly ministry, and in that sense we are all called to be his shepherds.

SUMMARY

1. Mother Teresa challenged her listeners as to whether they were able to identify their neighbours in need of their help.
2. The vision of the last judgement in Matthew uses the image of the good shepherd gathering his sheep into heaven, but in his Gospel John sees the last judgement as something that has already taken place for those who have encountered Christ.
3. Mother Teresa is now St Teresa of Calcutta; someone who in our own time has shown us what it means to recognise Christ living in our brothers and sisters. Identifying those who are crying out to us for help is the challenge to each of us.

(The Living Word)

ST. FRANCIS GIFT SHOP—BAKE & CHRISTMAS SALE - DEC. 1,2 & 3 AND DEC. 7, 8, 9, 10

FROM 10AM—3PM

(253 Knickerbocker Rd. Tenafly, NJ 201-568-0478)

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