



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; 12:00 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

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collections:

11/25/2018: \$968.00

Thank you for your support.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 09 – DECEMBER 15, 2018

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Dec. 09	10:00	Giorgio Busceti+	Abbadessa Family
	12:00	Loretta McGlaughin+	Marie Schofler
Mon. Dec. 10	9:30	Salvatore Di Paolo+	Martha Di Paolo
	11:45	Corazon Castillo+	Martha Paladino
Tue. Dec. 11	9:30	Thomas P. Dougherty+	Bob & Kathy Jaeger
	11:45	Corazon Castillo+	Josefina Martinez
Wed. Dec. 12	9:30	In Thanksgiving Fr. Michael Moran, SMA	
	11:45	Janina Mojak	Richard & Lydia
Thurs. Dec. 13	9:30	Lucy Buongiorno+	
	11:45	Robert H. Jaeger+	Bob & Kathy Jaeger
Fri. Dec. 14	9:30	Kevin Grealish+	Winnie Grealish
	11:45	Ruth Kane+	Richard Kane
Sat. Dec. 15	9:30	Special Intentions: Angela Hickey	The SMA Guild
	11:45	Ruth Kane+	Richard Kane

Local Superior:

Fr. Anbu Kumar, SMA

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

Today's Readings

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

When we sin, we build up mountains of separation between ourselves.

Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

Prayer is a sort of movement out into the world, filling it with joy.

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

From the empty spaces of the desert, a voice is heard through all the world. John the Baptist still speaks to us.

**Simbang Gabi novena
Mass , December 22,
2018 at 4:00 pm
All are welcome!**

Repentance is the Remedy

In today's Gospel, Luke deliberately names real towns that were occupied by the dynasty of Herod's family in the Holy Land to emphasize that the story of John the Baptist and of Jesus is really historical. It is a fact that Jesus Christ was born of The Virgin Mary on this earth at a particular time and a particular place. It is not a mere myth in the sense of a story which has no meaning. He really came, he really healed, restored and forgave. By His Cross and resurrection, He really saved the world.

Luke is preparing us for the announcement of God coming among us as a human being. He is preparing the stage for this great drama, giving the exact time this is going to happen amidst a critical situation between the political oppression of Rome and the Religious leaders of a people. For centuries they were expecting a Messiah to save them and change the world, but because so many hearts were hardened, many missed the unexpected manner of His arrival.

That announcement of God comes from John the Baptist. He was chosen to announce the coming of Jesus: the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior, the King. "Prepare a way for the Lord," became unsettling words for some but welcomed by many. This is the essence of the Advent message...to prepare our hearts, for the memory of Christ's first coming, His intermediary coming each day in our lives through prayer and the sacraments and His imminent return to the earth for Judgement. We too expect this coming. But are we going to be prepared to welcome Him unexpectedly when He comes? Unfortunately, many miss the point that the crooked paths that we suffer in life, begin within the depths of our own hearts. This is precisely why John the Baptist proclaims that preparation for making straight the crooked begins with repentance.

Repentance is not just seeking forgiveness but it is a radical and genuine changing of everything in one's life in relationship with God. As I mentioned last week, conversion demands us to "decide for God" and His ways. So, learn to forgive. Forgive yourself and others. It is a necessary act in order to receive the true liberation from our captivity of sin, pain and sickness. Forgiveness is a healing, a making us whole. Gosh, how much we all innately desire to be whole again! Today in this mad and confused world, we are the voice crying out from the deserts of our broken hearts to the Lord for His return. And, our hearts remain joyful and hopeful because His return that He desires as much as we do, will make everything whole again!

-Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA

Thank you!

Last week's SMA Karaoke Night was well attended. We are deeply grateful to the SMA Choir Members and to everyone who support this event sponsor for the SMA Choir.

Congratulations and Welcome to the SMA Family

**Fr. Dongjin Jun (Steve), assigned to Tanzania
Deacon Richard Benner & Mrs. Donna Benner, to Kenya
and Mr. Joseph Worthington to Ghana.**
Wish them all the best in their ministry,
in serving God & God's people.

Envelopes for the Christmas Flowers offering are at the back by the entrance of the Chapel.