



# Society of African Missions

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



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

## 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: \$1,022.00

Thank you for your support.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Masses for the week of April 07 – APRIL 13, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of SMA</b>	
Sun. Apr. 07	10:00	Elvira Molina (Liv) & Joe Vessecchia (Liv)	
	12:00	Sal & Gino Pico+	Sister & Nephew
Mon. Apr. 08	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Elena Piscitelli
	11:45	Timothy J. O'Connell+	O'Connell Family
Tue. Apr. 09	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Josefina Genzale
	11:45	Elvira Molina (Liv) & Joe Vessecchia (Liv)	
Wed. Apr. 10	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	Victoria Ann Costa (Liv) - Special Intention	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Apr. 11	9:30	Ann & Peter Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	11:45	Carmelo Gonzalez+	Ben/Mely Ramirez
Fri. Apr. 12	9:30	Fr. Jerome Bracken, CP (Liv)	Friend
	11:45	Elvira Molina (Liv) & Joe Vessecchia (Liv)	
Sat. Apr. 13	9:30	Rose Iacullo+ Birthday	Susan/Bob Iacullo
	11:45	Fr. Tom Hamill (Liv)	Sister

## Today's Readings

### First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

God's love and grace will flow like a river through the desert.

### Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14

Paul no longer relies on his own efforts, only on his faith in Christ.

### Gospel John 8:1-11

Jesus refuses to be coerced. God's mercy will not be thwarted.

**STATIONS  
OF THE  
CROSS**



**Fridays during Lent  
at 7:00 PM**

## **Gospel Teaching**

There's a great deal of making rushed judgements and demanding immediate answers in today's Gospel. Only Jesus seems to take the time carefully to read the whole situation. He resists the temptation to offer a hasty response or a simple "yes" or "no" answer to the question the scribes and Pharisees put to him. Instead, Jesus gathers his thoughts. He bends down and starts doodling in the dust, pondering, reflecting, seeing the wider picture.

The woman is merely a means to an end; they actually have no interest in her – they just want to trap Jesus. Is he going to agree with the law, thereby sacrificing the woman's life and undermining his reputation as a man with a message of the boundless compassion of God for all, even sinners? Or will Jesus risk his religious credentials by daring to contradict the teaching of Moses? The Pharisees want a "yes" or "no" answer to a question of moral law, as if they were dealing with a maths problem. But when it comes to people's lives, things are seldom so clear-cut. We know nothing of the woman's circumstances, nothing of the man she was with, or why she was with him. Context is everything.

Jesus is aware of their motives. But also, unlike his opponents, he is aware of the person involved. They make her stand in full view of everyone. They separate her from the rest of the people. It's easier to judge and condemn someone who is singled out as different, other, not one of us. Physically and psychologically they isolate the woman. Jesus does the exact opposite; he connects her to them. Whatever the reason for the woman's adultery, whether she was victim or wrongdoer, Jesus' response, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone," has the effect of reconnecting her to her accusers. For who has not committed sin? Who does not stand in need of the mercy of God? Once that connection is made, it becomes impossible for anyone to condemn or harm the woman, for in doing so they would be condemning themselves. Jesus reminds them – us – of what unites us as human beings; and when that happens, compassion and mercy become not just possible but the only options left open. That wider context really is everything.

## **Application**

It's often noted that Jesus doesn't condone the woman's sin; he points her forward to a different future, a different way of living. "I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come," Paul says. "No need to recall the past," God tells us in the first reading. "See, I am doing a new deed." God is providing the people with a symbolic river in the desert, so that they may drink. That river is the mercy of God freely offered to all who put their faith in Christ. Pope Francis tells us that "the name of God is mercy". That mercy is life-giving and transforms us so that, like the woman in the Gospel, we cease to live in isolation, held captive by our history. And like the Pharisees, we can no longer live apart, in the desert of superiority, judgement and condemnation. When we truly experience God's mercy, it's not just our view of ourselves that is transformed, but our understanding of humanity and our place in it. Judgement and condemnation are replaced by compassionate awareness of our solidarity and communion with the whole human family.

-The Living Word

### **Memorial Donations**

The Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Candles, Bread and Wine were donated in memory of Sister Trinity by Ann.

### **SHARE BREAKFAST WITH THE NEEDY**

Annual breakfast cereal drive.

The Office of Concern Food Pantry at St Cecilia Church of Englewood is asking for your help.  
Cereal collection between March 25 and April 15.