



Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
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: \$1,153.00

Thank you for your support.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the week of May 12 – May 18, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. May 12	10:00	Gerarda Mauro+ Geraldina Rose+ (Mother's Day)	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	12:00	Rose Pico & Family+	Daughter and Grandson
Mon. May 13	9:30	Spec. Int. Elvira Molina (Liv.) Joe Vessecchia (Liv.)	
	11:45	Special Int. Marina/Johanna Ponce de Leon (Liv.)	Rosanne
Tue. May 14	9:30	Special Int. Anbukumar Rayappan Family	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Spec. Int. Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Mariana Cho
Wed. May 15	9:30	Special Int. of Elvira Molina & Joe Vessecchia (Liv.)	
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. May 16	9:30	Special Intentions Frayda Ascrate (Liv.)	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Dec. Members Guiney and McCarthy Families	
Fri. May 17	9:30	Ponciano Lacap+	Lito & Flor Bautista
	11:45	Herman List+	John Tietjen
Sat. May 18	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawlor+	Lawlor Family

Today's Readings

First Reading Acts 13:14. 43-52

Paul and Barnabas are rejected by their own people and respond by reaching out to the pagans.

Second Reading Apocalypse 7:9. 14-17

Heaven awaits the countless number of people who remain faithful in spite of persecution. There they serve God, and the Lamb will be their shepherd.

Gospel John 10:27-30

Jesus promises that once we become his sheep we are protected by the Father and can never be lost.

BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY

The SMA Community-Tenafly wish all Mothers and all Women, a Blessed Mother's Day celebration. You are special to the SMA and to the world. Our prayers go with you and your families.



“The Father and I are one.”

Illustration

In New Zealand the sheep still outnumber the people by a ratio of about seven to one. There is a wonderful story told of a newly ordained bishop in that country who set off to visit some of the remote rural areas of his diocese. Confronted with an assembly of young children, he was confident that he was on to a winner by asking how many of their families kept sheep. Almost all the children put up their hands and so he launched into an explanation of his role as a shepherd, following in the footsteps of Jesus, the good shepherd. He showed them his crozier and explained that this represented the shepherd's crook. He proceeded to tell them Jesus' story of the good shepherd going in search of the one lost sheep and leaving the other ninety-nine until he found it.

Then he made his fatal mistake; he said to the children: “I am sure your parents would do the same if one of your sheep went missing.” Immediately one little boy responded and told the bishop in no uncertain terms that his dad would certainly not, having more of the little so-and-sos to look after than he could cope with as it was. Instead of being flustered and wondering how to respond, the bishop might have turned this unexpected response to his advantage, explaining to the children that Jesus was always stretching our imagination and telling stories that require us to think differently from the way we naturally tend to.

Gospel Teaching

Of course, Jesus is inviting us to see ourselves as his sheep and reminding us that each of us is utterly precious. Matthew and Luke tell us the story of the “lost sheep”, but it is John who takes up the image of Jesus as the good shepherd and explores its meaning throughout the tenth chapter of his Gospel. Today's short extract completes his explanation, but it is worth noting that this is all part of a long and threatening exchange which Jesus is having with those who will not accept his message. Jesus is explaining that he has come from a loving and merciful Father and that those who accept his message and follow him will belong to him and to his Father for all eternity.

In the book of Revelation – the Apocalypse – John tells us that “a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language” are assembled in heaven, having come through persecution and “washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb”. Not only is Jesus the good shepherd, he is also the Lamb who was sacrificed so that we might be saved. Of supreme importance is the reminder from Jesus: “The Father and I are one.” Jesus will reinforce this message in the Last Supper discourse that follows in John's Gospel. Remember, when Philip asks to see the Father, Jesus reiterates the message and then goes on to pray that we may all be one as well.

Application

Traditionally this fourth Sunday of Easter – “Good Shepherd Sunday” – is set aside as a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In every age the family of the Church is in need of those willing to dedicate their entire lives to shepherding the flock, but in today's Church we are also becoming more and more conscious of the fact that every disciple of Jesus, by virtue of baptism, is called to share in the ministry of shepherding, caring for and healing those in need. Once we commit ourselves to the Lord we recognise that we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus, children of the Father, members of Christ's body. We all have a vocation, a calling from God, and in many parts of the world it is important that we stress the importance of this, because where the number of ordained ministers is in decline, the Christian community will flourish only if all are using their gifts to ensure that we remain vibrant and united in the Lord.

History teaches us that there have been many times when the Church has had to wait patiently and be attentive to the promptings of God's Spirit. Now is the time to beg once more for those gifts of wisdom and understanding so that we may discern the way forward and ensure that someone is there to bring back those who have strayed and tend the wounds of those who are broken.