



# 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: \$2,641.00

Thank you for your support.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Masses for the week of May 5 – May 11, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of SMA</b>	
Sun. May 5	10:00	Special Intentions of Thomas & Jessica Lee Family	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	12:00	Rachel Lerch+	Flynn Family
Mon. May 6	9:30	Right Rev. Mons Neary	James Neary
	11:45	Rolando Dumlao+	Rosanne Ambulo
Tue. May 7	9:30	Deceased Members of the Duggan Family	The Family
	11:45	Rolly Dumlao+	Pine Castro & Family
Wed. May 8	9:30	Special Int. of Elvira Molina & Joe Vesseccchia (Liv.)	
	11:45	Helen Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. May 9	9:30	Rose Houde+	Sister Agnes & Sister Helene
	11:45	Gloria Adriguez Alba+	Biron Family
Fri. May 10	9:30	Special Intentions Helen Craig (Liv.)	Sister Agnes & Sister Helene
	11:45	Ann Peltier Broaddus, Rose Ann & Maureen P+	Michelle Supper
Sat. May 11	9:30	Rich Imperatore+	Diane & Mike Bruno
	11:45	Rolando Dumlao + & Lumen Mendoza+	Linda Rubio

### ***Today's Readings***

***First Reading Acts 5:27-32. 40-41***

*Peter and the apostles refuse to give up preaching the Gospel.*

***Second Reading Apocalypse 5:11-14***

*John opens a window into the mysterious glory and worship of heaven.*

***Gospel John 21:1-19***

*Peter is asked to love Jesus in a deep and sacrificial way.*

### **OFFERING**

This week the Altar Bread and Wine are donated by Richard Kane in thanksgiving for successful medical diagnoses.

## **“Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

### **Illustration**

*Tradition has it that St Peter was martyred by being crucified upside down. In 1952, close to his grave beneath St Peter's, Rome, the remains of a skeleton, carefully wrapped in imperial purple, were found in a cavity; a cavity marked by an inscription “Peter is here”. They were closely examined and carbon-dated. The tradition of him being crucified upside down gained credibility when it was found that no foot bones were there. The likelihood is that his followers hurriedly hacked his body down from the cross and buried him.*

### **Gospel Teaching**

*Peter lived by fishing in the Sea of Tiberias, sometimes called Lake Galilee: in his wildest dreams he would never have imagined that one day he would travel to Rome. Meeting Jesus – recognising him as the Messiah, the Son of God – utterly changed and opened up his life. This man, who would have expected to spend his lifetime in Galilee, a fisherman like his father John probably was, found his vocation to travel widely as an apostle of Jesus, a preacher of the Gospel and the leader of the Church. Never could he forget those enigmatic words of Jesus, “when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go”. Peter had no inkling of what Jesus meant, but writing after it had happened St John realised Jesus said this to indicate “the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God”.*

*Yet Jesus had given a hint to Peter. Three times he asked Peter whether he loved him. Three times Peter answered that he did. But the English translation conceals what was actually said. In Greek, the language in which the Gospel was written, there is more than one word for love. Agape is self-sacrificing love; philia is friendship. Jesus asks Peter if he loves him with a self-sacrificing love. Peter replies he loves him with friendship. A second time Jesus asks if he loves him with a self-sacrificing love, and again Peter answers that he loves him with friendship. The third time, Jesus lowers his demand. He asks Peter if he loves him with friendship. Peter once avowed that he would be willing to die for Jesus, but Jesus had warned him that before cockcrow he would deny him three times. Now, when Jesus asked him repeatedly if he loved him with a self-sacrificing love, Peter could not bring himself to respond in the same terms.*

### **Application**

*It is the weakness of Peter that appeals to us; the fact that he was honest enough to tell Jesus that he loved him, but not to the extent of sacrificing his life for him. Yet Peter would experience spiritual growth, and so, please God, do we. Very soon Peter did grow to love Jesus in the deepest, self-sacrificing way. In the first reading we heard how he and the other apostles had been ordered by the authorities to stop preaching about Jesus, and how they carried on filling Jerusalem with their teaching. “Obedience to God comes before obedience to men,” Peter boldly declared.*

*It is the humanity of Jesus, his understanding of the frailty of human nature, that gives us hope. Far from being angry with Peter, or washing his hands of him for his failure, Jesus simply asked for his love, and was willing to accept the little Peter honestly felt he could offer. Jesus knew that Peter would learn from his denials. His very sin would make him stronger. We may feel that we have let Jesus down in some way. We may have broken a vow or failed to follow up our good intentions, like Peter did. Through God's grace, good can come from it. Through forgiveness, damaged relationships can be renewed and be even better than they were before, as happened with Peter.*

*Peter was appointed to look after Christ's sheep and feed them. He would make a sympathetic pastor. Having learned the hard way that it is impossible to live the Christian life in his own strength, his trust and faith in God was deepened. When he was arrested in Nero's purge of the Church in Rome, like many persecuted Christians since, even in our day, he found that he would in the end choose to die rather than deny the one who loved him.*