



Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Administration:

Fr Ranees Anbukumar,
Provincial Superior
Fr Dermot Roache,
Vice-Provincial
Fr Richard Angolio,
Councillor

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

African Art Museum

Open daily. Contact:

Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Deacon Michael Bova

201-567-0450 Ext. 207

Sunday Collections: \$1,660.00

Thank you for your support.

SMA ANNUAL GALA

Friday, September 27, 2019

The Clinton Inn—Tenafly
call (201) 567-0450

TICKETS AVAILABLE

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of AUGUST 4 – AUGUST 10

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Aug. 4	10:00	Joseph Lee (Liv) (Birthday)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	12:00	In Memory of Franco Pastore+	Family
Mon. Aug. 5	9:30	John/Joseph Tolentino+	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Thanksgiving	Rosanne
Tue. Aug. 6	9:30	Mary Ellen Murphy+	Angela Hickey
	11:45	Peregrino Birone+	Birone Family
Wed. Aug. 7	9:30	Bridget McGowan+	Gerald McGowan
	11:45	Fr. Ignatius Lissner, S.M.A.+	
Thurs. Aug. 8	9:30	Leo Troy+	Eileen Kenny
	11:45	Frederick Freda+	Martha Paladino
Fri. Aug. 9	9:30	Skrable Family	Rose Ortaglia
	11:45	Bill, Alice, Randy Supper+ Bill Portmann+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Aug. 10	9:30	Garrett McGowan+	Gerald McGowan
	11:45	Gjini (Liv.)	

Today's Readings

First Reading Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

“Vanity of vanities.” Possibly the most striking introduction to any biblical book. The writer has come to realise that material things give no lasting joy

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-5. 9-11

A focus on the things of the life beyond this is the non-negotiable centre of life for those who believe in Christ.

Gospel Luke 12:13-21

A family dispute is aired in public. Jesus is not impressed at being drawn into the argument.

“Who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?”

Illustration

Etiquette gets everywhere, or breaches of etiquette do. Some of its expressions appear quaint to us today, especially if they are no longer in common use. Do you remember when people always turned up on time for appointments? Once it was the done thing. And there was a time when people would never discuss money, at least not in public. Dining etiquette is of great importance in many cultures. In the Middle East, the etiquette of the meal is very important – and it was perhaps even more so in biblical times. That’s what made Judas’ dining with Jesus and then betraying him so soon afterwards so shocking to those at table – apart from the horror of the betrayal itself.

A further example of etiquette in a biblical context was that family business –especially disputes – should never be discussed in front of guests or strangers. Martha, as we heard a couple of weeks ago, forgets this custom when she asks Jesus to tell her sister to give a hand with the housework. The same mistake is made by the man in the crowd today who shouts out to Jesus, who is passing by at that time: “Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.” Jesus’ reply indicates he is not impressed by the request: family business again being discussed in public.

Gospel Teaching

This apparently isolated incident turns out to be anything but. Jesus is journeying towards Jerusalem. It is a journey that is described over ten full chapters of the Gospel. At one point, while he was still active in Galilee, Jesus made life-changing decision. It is described in a simple phrase in Luke’s Gospel: “Now as the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, [Jesus] resolutely took the road for Jerusalem.” Literally, in the biblical Greek, he set his face towards Jerusalem. He has made the decision to journey towards his own death. Everything that Jesus says and does from now until he reaches Jerusalem is connected with the journey and, of course, its destination.

The man’s lack of etiquette pales into insignificance compared with the importance of Jesus’ mission. Leaving bad manners aside, the man from the crowd is obsessed with himself and what he perceives to be his. At the same time, Jesus, the Son of Man, is utterly focused on giving his very self for the sake of humanity. The man from the crowd is small-minded, selfish and insular. Now he is asking a favour from the one who gives his life as a ransom for all – the ultimate action of selflessness and generosity. Jesus gives him a parable on which to reflect. All parables provoke questions, rather than supplying answers. The man must identify what questions the parable presents to him. Is he like a man who, having taken in a huge harvest, wants so much to celebrate the present that he invests nothing in the future? It’s a future he soon finds he doesn’t have, since his life ends that very night.

Application

This is one of many places in the Gospel where Jesus urges people to decide where their priorities lie. Elsewhere, he says, “Set your hearts on [God’s] kingdom first... and all these other things will be given you as well”, and “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”.

Here’s a test to discover where your heart is set. Make a list. It does not have to be written down – you can do it in your head. List what are the most important things, or people, or achievements in your life. If you can put them in order, well and good, but that is not of prime importance. Who or what you list is, of course, indicative of the person you are. When you have made your list, think about it. Was God on your list? Was the kingdom of heaven? If not, you might want to revise it.

It’s a pity we don’t hear what happened to the man desperate to get his hands on his share of the inheritance. It would be nice to think that he became a disciple and abandoned his pursuit of wealth. It would also be nice to think that he and his brother were reconciled and laid aside arguments about money. Perhaps, in the words with which Jesus concludes today’s Gospel, he saw the importance of “making himself rich in the sight of God”. It would be good if we could do likewise.

The Living Word

CONDOLENCES

The SMA Community is saddened by the death of our longtime friend, **Teresa Blasco**. She passed away on July 31, 2019. Our prayers are with her daughter, Elaine, family and friends.
MAY GOD GRANT HER ETERNAL REST.

Knights of Columbus St. John's Council #1345

Friday Night Karaoke Social – August 16th from 7-11PM the Council along with the Columbian Club will again be hosting a special Karaoke Night in conjunction with our regularly scheduled social. A \$5 pp charge will entitle those interested in participating admission to the dining room, unlimited participation in the Karaoke with DJ Lady J, and special enhanced Friday Night Snacks. Call or text Ken A. at 1-516-220-9333 Or email KofC1345reservations@gmail.com to RSVP for Karaoke.