



Society of African Missions

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



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior
Fr Dermot Roache,
 House Superior

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. Dermot Roache

201-567-0450 Ext. 212

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

Fr. Michael Bova

201-567-0450 Ext. 207

Sunday Collections: \$1,730.00

Thank you for your support.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 22—DECEMBER 28 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Dec. 22	10:00	Carmen/Giuseppe Saliturno	Enrico/Filomena Saliturno
	12:00	Deceased Members of the Pico Family+	Daughter
Mon. Dec. 23	9:30	Dec. Memb. of Guiney & McCarthy Families	
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
Tue. Dec. 24	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Benita Maduramente+	Rosanne
Wed. Dec. 25	9:30	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
	11:45	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Thurs. Dec. 26	9:30	Abitante/Falotico Families+	
	11:45	Iacullo, Mauro, Sozio Families (Christmas Intentions)	Susan/Bob Iacullo
Fri. Dec. 27	9:30	Maria Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Braulio Monroy+	Richard & Lydia
Sat. Dec. 28	9:30	Maria Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Fr Terrance Dorothy, SMA+	Florence

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord gives a sign of his presence with his people: the maiden is with child.

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Jesus was proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection from the dead.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph's dream and God's dream.

The Altar Bread and Wine this week were donated by Rich Kane in memory of **Ruth Kane.**

REFLECTION

On this 4th Sunday of Advent the focus is on Mary and Joseph. Let's put our minds back to the ancient near east 2000 years ago in the tiny, closed knit community of Nazareth in Galilee. A mid teenage woman becomes visibly pregnant before she is married. Her fiancée who is not the father decides to quietly divorce her without raising any trouble. She becomes an object of shame for her entire community. Then, out of nowhere comes Joseph's dream, where an angel tells Joseph to take Mary into his home and that the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit. You can imagine how the village people would have reacted if Joseph was to say, it is not my child but was conceived by the Holy Spirit...Ohh Kay...

Joseph and Mary became the Holy Family, one that was to endure the hardships of ridicule, most likely discrimination, and certainly shame from the community. However, their faith in God, in what God's will was, pulled them through as a couple. Our blessed mother was invited by God to face her pregnancy in faith. Her response was perfect, "Let it be done to me according to your word." She could not explain nor understand what was happening but, she knew deep down in her soul that God was in charge. Similarly, Joseph entered into the mystery of marriage, an initially awkward one at that, based on complete faith in God knowing that he would be foster father to a son who would save God's people from their sin.

The Holy family worked as a team throughout their relationship. There was never an issue of who wore the pants. At the Nativity and Presentation Mary was the lead parent. However, when Joseph got the family up in the middle of the night to escape to Egypt Mary didn't give him any pushback. Both parents nurtured, mentored and educated Jesus. When Joseph was at work and the young Jesus fell playing, scraping his leg, it was his mom Mary who cleaned his wounds and dressed them. At the Cross she did the same thing spiritually in supporting Jesus when his friends had abandoned him. Today, I invite all couples to act upon your own invitations from God to embrace the mysteries of life and marriage more fully. For those families that are led by single parents, trust me, God is with you too and Jesus, Mary and Joseph want to be a part of your life just as much as with anyone else, even more so, they know what hardship is all about and they gravitate to those undergoing it! I exhort you to invite them to be with you and help you in raising your children...they will gladly oblige, you just have to ask!

Fr Michael Bova, SMA

The SMA Community here at the Mission wish you all a beautiful Christmas enriched with blessings. May this Holy Season bring us closer to Jesus, our Savior!



Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, December 24—:Christmas Eve: Confessions: 4:00pm to 5:30pm
Mass: 8:00pm - Please join us for refreshments after Mass at the SMA Hall.
Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day— Masses: 8, 10, and 12 Noon

The Knights of Columbus Council #1345 of Bergenfield/Dumont

New Year's Eve Party - December 31st from 8PM-1AM. Only \$95 per person. RSVP REQUIRED by calling or texting Ken A. at 516-220-9333 or emailing KofC1345Reservations@gmail.com. ADVANCE PAYMENT required. Make check payable to Twin-Boro Columbian Club and mail to Ken Armellino, 60 Dance Blvd, Dumont, NJ 07628.