



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: \$1,026.00

Thank you for your support.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of DECEMBER 15—DECEMBER 21, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Dec. 15	10:00	Thomas Micklas+	Rosemarie & Stefani Micklas
	12:00	Feliciano Guinto+Dominador & Purification Guinto	
Mon. Dec. 16	9:30	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
	11:45	Carmela Coppolino+	Angela & Roger Gussoni
Tue. Dec. 17	9:30	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Emilia Ambrocio+	Ben/Mely Ramirez
Wed. Dec. 18	9:30	Theresa Tietjen+	Family
	11:45	Maureen Portman+ Michael Peltier+	Michelle Supper
Thurs. Dec. 19	9:30	Jack & Gret Molloy+	Angela
	11:45	Melian Gonzalez (Liv.) Thanksgiving	Ben/Mely Ramirez
Fri. Dec. 20	9:30	Eileen Neary+	Veronica Lee
	11:45	Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Mariana Cho
Sat. Dec. 21	9:30	Emma G. Haggerty+	Kathleen Jaeger
	11:45	Catherine Hamill+	Friend

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

The prophet looks forward to a day when those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear and those who are lame will "leap like a deer".

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, says the writer. Take the example of a farmer waiting for the crop to ripen. Impatience will not hasten the Lord's return.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

In prison and nearing death, John sends messengers to ask who Jesus is; Jesus replies that John must read the signs for himself.

The Altar Bread and Wine this week were donated by Michael Murphy in memory of Annie Murphy.

REFLECTION

Last week, John the Baptist told us that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The image of being baptized with fire is a good one to meditate on. It reveals to us the deep purification that Jesus wants for our souls. For many of us that purification takes place in our life on earth, during our journey back to heaven. It involves a transformation of our lives and how we live it. This will mean some sacrifice and complete surrender to God and His will. We won't always be able to do everything we want and in the way we want to do it. Purification of our soul can hurt, but in a sweet sort of way. However, sometimes our purification on earth is not complete. Keep in mind that no sin stained soul can see God face to face. That is what purification does; it gets us ready to be in heaven to have union with our Creator in His infinite majesty and beauty. Our souls need to be in order. Could you show up to the prom in dirty sweat pants, not having showered and shaved for a week and with a torn baseball cap? Probably not...nor would you want to.

Our Catholic faith reveals to us the reality of Purgatory after we die. When our purification is not complete on earth, it will be finished in the next phase. Assuredly it is much better to undergo purification on earth than in the next phase. The revelations of the saints tell us that is clearly the case. If we suffer the pains of purgatory, we will gain a deep understanding of our sin and how it has affected our life and the lives of others. Probably the most realistic portrayal of purgatory is in Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." Jacob Marley who had created a long chain of sin (greed) for himself comes to warn his business partner and friend Ebenezer Scrooge about what he has done to himself and the very long chain that he himself has created. Ebenezer, after interaction with the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and most poignantly future, changes his ways, is transformed. God's love works in mysterious ways...

The wounds in our life can be devastating and can subtly lead us down a rabbit hole of sin if we are not careful. Many of these wounds come in our childhood, like Ebenezer who lost his mother while she gave birth to him and was verbally abused and ignored by his father. He medicated his wounds through achievement in making money. Some of us medicate our wounds through drugs and alcohol or pornography and promiscuity. However, realize that no matter what our wounds and our sins, Jesus is the divine physician and healer and through him we can overcome all things. Reflect this week upon the purification to which God may be calling you. What are you clinging to that He wants you to release? Open yourself wholeheartedly to the purifying fire of God's love and let that love cleanse you this Advent.

Fr Michael Bova, SMA

MASS INTENTION BOOK

The book for
announced Mass
is open.

SAVE THESE DATES...

NEXT SATURDAY, Dec. 11
SIMBANG GABI SA MISSION

Holy Mass at 5:00pm Fellowship after Mass—SMA Hall

The Knights of Columbus Council #1345 of Bergenfield/Dumont

New Year's Eve Party - December 31st from 8PM-1AM we will be hosting our New Year's Eve party with **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** provided by **The R&B Show** to ring in the new year playing all your favorites from classic selections to today's top hits. Only \$95 per person includes passed hot hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner with choice of 8 different entrees, assorted dessert bar, coffee, tea, open bar, and a midnight champagne toast. Watch the ball drop with us on the big screen in our dining room this year! 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.