



# Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Phone: 201-567-0450  
Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)



## 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

### Sunday Collections: \$1,295

Thank you for your support.

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### Masses for the week of JANUARY 12—JANUARY 18, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of SMA</b>	
Sun. Jan. 12	10:00	Fe Tolentino+	Erlly Cortez
	12:00	Sal & Gino Pico+	Sister & Nephew
Mon. Jan. 13	9:30	Wilson Zuluaga+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Ramon Ambulo+	Rosanne Ambulo
Tue. Jan. 14	9:30	Dorothy Kempf+	
	11:45	Mr. & Mrs. Heimlich+	
Wed. Jan. 15	9:30	Margaret Doonan+ Kathleen McDermott	Susan Murphy
	11:45	The Quinn Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Thurs. Jan. 16	9:30	Mary Laird+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Special Intentions Erlinda Cortez	
Fri. Jan. 17	9:30	Rosa Fernandez (Liv.)	Friend
	11:45	Mary Green (Liv.)	McGowans
Sat. Jan. 18	9:30	Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Special Intentions Jeryl Maglio (Liv.)	Victoria Ann Costa

### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Dermot Roache,**  
House Superior

## Today's Readings

### **First Reading** Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

*Isaiah offers a beautiful description of the Messiah, who comes to serve the cause of right and bring healing to humanity.*

### **Second Reading** Acts 10:34-38

*St Peter tells a Roman soldier, whom he baptised, how Jesus had gone about doing good and healing.*

### **Gospel** Matthew 3:13-17

*Jesus, at his baptism, receives the Holy Spirit and is proclaimed to be God's beloved Son.*

St. John's Council #1345

### **SAVE THE DATE.** January 26

**Fr. Murray Memorial Dance.-**

12 Noon Mass at the SMA Fathers.

Dinner and Dance at the Council Hall—61 Armour Place, Dumont.

RSVP REQUIRED at

516-220-9333

or emailing [kofc1345Reservations@gmail.com](mailto:kofc1345Reservations@gmail.com).

## ***We are baptized, we are a chosen people!***

The celebration of the Lord's Baptism marks the end of Christmas season. The Lord's Baptism is providentially situated at the beginning of the year in order to remind us of our own baptism and God's gratuitous call of us to belong to his fold and flock. It is situated thus as a way of re-awakening in us at the beginning of a new year, of who we are, and ought to be. It is a reminder that we share in the Great and One Baptism of Jesus Christ who "was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man" like us.

Baptism cleans and releases us from the bondage of Original Sin and makes us children of God. It configures us as adopted children of God and confirms that we are members of God's Great household. Therefore, of utmost importance is the need for us to reflect on how far we have kept our baptismal vows. How faithful have we been to God in terms of keeping these promises. Are we still saying "I DO" to questions like: "Do you reject Satan? Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children? Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? If our answer is on the contrary, it is time to retrace our ways and come back home to God to whom ab initio we made these vows and so betrothed ourselves. God the Father says of the son: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," while God the Spirit in the form of a dove bears testimony of the sonship of Jesus Christ. What testimony does God bear of me and, can God testify that I am truly His child who does his will and keeps his promises?

The Spirit of God rests on Jesus and bears testimony that he is the son of God. God the Father spoke thus: "This is my beloved son; in whom I am well pleased." God the Spirit bore the testimony by resting upon the son as a dove. They worked together in order to initiate the redemption of humanity through the water of baptism. Jesus Christ brings not only redeemed men and women, but also the unredeemed creation to the steps of Calvary and has opened the way. This is why God extended His grace of redemption to us through the same water of baptism. Peter himself surprised at the all-encompassing love and mercy of God testifies thus: "The truth I have now come to realize is that God has no favorites, but any one of any nationality who fears God is acceptable to him." In other words, the water of baptism sanctified by Jesus does not segregate.

A certain priest was good to a group of students. So, they decided to come around in order to show their appreciation and express their profound gratitude. After expressing their joys over what he has done for them, the students punctuated their speech with: "God bless you Father!" At this, the Priest objected and responded: "Oh no! You are not the one to say, 'God bless you' or to bless me, I am the one ordained to bless you people." So, the students asked him: "So then Father, what shall we say to you for your kindness to us?" Then the priest said to them: "Simply say thank you Father!" Where the students wrong? I do not think so, because as baptized Christians they too can bless people. However, as a matter of the order things should follow, the priest himself was also not wrong. This is like the scene we find in our gospel. Although Jesus was greater than John the Baptist and in actuality was supposed to administer the sacrament on John, He allowed and insisted it to be the other way around. This is an extreme act of humility which we ourselves must emulate and make effort to live out. The most important lesson here is that Jesus tried to underscore the importance of baptism to the redemption of humanity and the life of a Christian. It is not a mere sign. Rather, it is a sacrament which leaves an indelible mark on the receiver. Once we receive this mark, we must not allow it to be covered by the "dust of life." We must make enough effort to leave it as visible as possible, so that God could see it always and testify of us: "This is my beloved son (or daughter), in whom I am well pleased!"