



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:

\$1,087.00

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support your
local Parishes.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 23—FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 23	10:00	Joan Regan+	John & Bernadette McCabe
	12:00	Ella Pechillo+ Memorial Mass	Family & Friends
Mon. Feb. 24	9:30	Helen Jaeger+	Kathleen Jaeger
	11:45	Richard Kane Sr. + 62 nd Anniversary	Rich & Marilyn Kane
Tue. Feb. 25	9:30	Robert Murphy+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Jessica Lee (Birthday) (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
Wed. Feb. 26	9:30	James Higgins+	Diane & Mike Bruno
	11:45	Aideen O'Sullivan+	Breda & Benny Walsh
Thurs. Feb. 27	9:30	Mary E. Martins (Liv.)	Sister
	11:45	RT Rev. Mons. Thomas Neary+	Neary Family
Fri. Feb. 28	9:30	Bridget Twomey+	Neary Family
	11:45	Ann Kurpiel+ 18 years—Bill Portmann+ 2 Years	Michelle Supper
Sat. Feb. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Mary Ann Pruzinsky (Liv.)	Pruzinsky Family

Today's Readings

“First Reading *Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18*

The Lord commissions his people to imitate him in holiness, and shows that love is the heart of both divine and human law.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 3:16-23*

The heart of St Paul's teaching is the indwelling of the Trinity within us. Here he uses the illustration of our bodies being temples of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel *Matthew 5:38-48*

Jesus renews the call to holiness and shows some of the practical applications necessary.”

Four seminarians were kidnapped on January 8, 2020, in Nigeria. Three were released with serious injuries; and the fourth was murdered by his captors on February 2.

Gunmen associated to Jihadist groups gunned down 24 people in a Protestant church last Sunday, in Burkina Faso.

Our own SMA, Fr. Pier Luigi Maccalli was kidnapped on September 16, 2018, in Niger. Since then we haven't heard anything from him.

Every time I've listened, to this news, my heart – mind – body is filled with rage and anger, and I've wished all these Muslims to be wiped off from the face of the earth.

“An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” This is what I want. But **Jesus Christ today is teaching me something totally different.** He asks, or better says, demands of me to love, to love not only the one is good to me, the one who feels is right, but **to love my enemies.**

Jesus is going as far as any human being can go. I cannot be satisfied anymore by loving only my neighbor, I must also love my enemy. Jesus teaches us that to be a good Christian is to love everyone, without making differences between just and unjust, good and evil, friend and enemy. I've read a lot of biblical commentaries looking for some scholar to tell me that in this verse of the Gospel they have some kind of less radical explanation. I didn't find it. We are in front of what is the essence and the model of the true Christian; there is nothing greater, more specific and more difficult to do than to love those who hate us, our enemies.

For many to love and forgive the enemy is a utopia, it is an idea of a perfect love but in reality, it is impossible.

I can say it is impossible for men and women, but for God. We are Christian, God's people; Christ lives in us, we make communion with Him in the Eucharist, so **love of your enemy is not impossible for us, Catholics if we are fill of the Holy Spirit. It is not a utopia if we live in Jesus Christ.**

So, I would like to challenge you and myself to think who is that person you cannot love, your enemy, the one you try to make fun of because s/he thinks, lives, believes, dresses, has different political opinions from you. Well, for you and me this is the Good News, the Gospel; you can love him/ her because God is in you, but if you don't have God's grace in you... don't even try.

“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.

Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him.

Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

I am the LORD.” (Lv 19:2, 17-18)

“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mt. 5:48)

REMINDER: Wednesday, February 26, marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses (8:00, 9:30 & 11:45am)

Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent at 7:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, **March 14, 2020**

GOD'S MERCY IS HERE!

Please join us for a powerful holy hour of praise and worship.

SMA Chapel — **8PM**

APRIL 26, 2020

SMA LUNCHEON

After the 12 O'clock Mass. Mission Hall 23 Bliss Ave. Tenafly, NJ 07670

\$25 per person