



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:

\$2,001.00

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support your
local Parishes.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 16—FEBRUARY 22, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 16	10:00	Fr Daniel Lynch, SMA+	Juliana Park
	12:00	Fr Al Cooney, SMA 65 th Anniversary of Priesthood	
Mon. Feb. 17	9:30	John Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Una Neary Sheehan+	Neary Family
Tue. Feb. 18	9:30	Annie Gallagher+	Neary Family
	11:45	Kathy Gaffney+	Asha
Wed. Feb. 19	9:30	Ave Quilling & Aida Zoleta (Healing)	Linda Rubio
	11:45	John & Eileen Ryan+	Breda & Benny Walsh
Thurs. Feb. 20	9:30	Mary & Joseph Falotico+	
	11:45	Catherine Neary+	Neary Family
Fri. Feb. 21	9:30	Bill Moran+ 10 th Anniversary	Neary Family
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Sat. Feb. 22	9:30	Christopher Cortez (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Cecile & Christopher Cortez (Liv)	Erly Cortez

Today's Readings

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

We are taught to keep the commandments, for behaving faithfully is within our power.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Paul warns believers against basing their faith on human wisdom instead of God's wisdom.

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus did not reject the Jewish scriptures but brought them back to basics: love of God and of neighbor. Our lives should reflect this love.

PRAYERS.- Our prayers are with Olga Mosciaro for a speedy recovery.

In this sixth Sunday of the ordinary time, we continue with the Sermon on the Mountain: The Beatitudes – You are the salt of life, the light of the world – and today **“I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfill.”**

Everything begins to be difficult in the gospel if we fail to correctly read the term in Mt. 5:17 ; "bring to fullness"; and the exact meaning of "law" and his "precepts". The discussion is entirely proverbial, unfinished and even pathological, both in the Jewish and in the Catholic world. The rabbinic' distinction between mild precepts and serious precepts (among Catholics mortal and venial sins) is not directly significant in the reading, but it somehow reaches the climax when Jesus says: **“Love of enemies”** (Mt 5,43-48) which is the most radical. That is why this distinction between the serious and the less serious is not a good explanation, but everything points rather to the radicality of Jesus’ teachings. That is where we must focus on the fullness of the law and the prophets.

The Sermon of Jesus, for Matthew, is a requirement which is inserted in the history of the people, a people that must be faithful to God, and therefore they speak of "fullness". The "Law and the Prophets" are not simply the two essential parts of the Bible, but we must understand it as the "full story of God with his people". The "iotas" and the "tildes" (minimum things) of the Law cannot remain for us in simple ritual or moral demands; if so, we would fall back into a Judaism that would have little to do with the ethics of Jesus, which is the revolutionary ethic of love and grace. That is, for Matthew, the "iotas" and the "tildes", symbols of the small, as part of a fullness that demanded the same law. Jesus was a Jew and He does not change God’s fundamental demands in the face of evil and of life and religion. **This is what we should understand above all: the religion of the law and the prophets reaches its "fullness" if we think and feel like Jesus thought and acted.** If we are to interpret that the law and the prophets are valid for Jesus in their details, then we are misreading the gospel itself and the story of Jesus of Nazareth. Therefore, the faithfulness to the God of the law and the prophets that Jesus performs with his life, with his radical message about the Kingdom that has come, is already present in Himself.

The first reading, from the book of Ben Sirach, is framed in a context about the mystery of sin and human freedom. Ben Sirach’s claim is that God does not oblige to sin; that is to say, He gave us the gift of freedom to choose good and not evil. We must, therefore, choose the integrity of the totality of our existence and our possibilities and value with wisdom that we have been created, not for evil, but for good.

So, **Jesus’ invitation to be his disciples, is an invitation to choose to be and act as He did. Defending all and every life and giving to everyone the possibility to live with dignity. To love with your whole being (mind, heart, flesh). To love unto death, in the good and in the bad. To be truthful to God, to yourself and to others so that your yes is a yes and your no is a no, because anything else is from the evil one.**

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