



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of July 12— July 18, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 12	10:00	Kathleen Cunnion+ Sister of Bernadette McCabe	Mary Quinn & Family
	12:00	Margaret Ferguson+	Flynn Family
Mon. July 13	9:30	Dec. Members of The Desrochers Family	
	11:45	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
Tue. July 14	9:30	Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Michael R. Desrochers+	
Wed. July 15	9:30	Joseph Abitante+	
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Thurs. July 16	9:30	Carmela & Giuseppe Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
	11:45	Gret & Jack Molloy	Angela
Fri. July 17	9:30	John Bruno+	
	11:45	Renario Bontuyan+	The Helman Family
Sat. July 18	9:30	Robert Feulner+	Kathleen Jaeger
	11:45	Thanksgiving Amelia Ramirez & Benjamin Jr (Liv.)	Ben & Mely Ramirez

Please note that the Mass Intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.

Today's Readings: *First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11*

God's word is powerful and comes to us as both challenge and gift.

Second Reading Romans 8:18-23

Paul speaks of the fruits of the resurrection for the human race and the whole of creation.

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

The parable of the sower illustrates the mystery of faith as it works in the heart of each individual. If we give God an inch, God gives us a mile.

“The one who received the seed in rich soil is the [one] who hears the word and understands it... the one who yields a harvest.”

Illustration

Faith is a mysterious thing. Many devout parents have to bear the sorrow of knowing that the faith that they love and cherish has not passed down the generations. Despite their having done everything possible, their children have chosen not to embrace the faith in which they were raised. It's easy for people in such circumstances to blame themselves: maybe we should have tried harder, maybe we should have set a better example, sent them to a better school or had a more effective parish catechetical programme. It's often said that faith is caught, not taught. This may be true in many cases, but families where a vibrant and healthy faith is the norm and prayer a regular practice can still produce atheist children, whereas families where there is not an ounce of obvious faith can produce children who grow to be ardent Christians. Ultimately, it's a mystery known only to God.

Yet we need not despair, even if we have a certain sense of regret or failure. One of our Eucharistic Prayers reminds us that we not only pray for the shepherds of our Church, whose faith sustains that of the whole community, but we also pray for those whose faith is known to God alone. The many millions of people in the world who can be described as “people of good will” have that good will because of God's grace. A modern theologian spoke of “anonymous Christians”, those who live by the gifts of the Holy Spirit even if they don't acknowledge Jesus. However little room anyone makes for God in their life, God will always occupy that space and make it fruitful.

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel Jesus preaches in parables and his disciples question why he does this: would it not be better to speak plainly, in black and white? Yet faith does not offer easy solutions to complex questions, and the “grey areas” of life are often precisely where there is room for faith to grow and mature.

We also hear echoes in this Gospel of the difficulties facing the early Church. Jesus' first disciples were all Jews, and they had to come to terms over time with the painful truth that many of their fellow Jews did not become believers. The evangelisation of the pagan world emerged from the conflicts and failures encountered by the first generation of disciples. In Jesus' words we hear reflected their explanation to themselves of how the rejection of Jesus' ministry could have happened. There is room for caution here, however. There have been tragic and terrible consequences in history of a too-easy blaming of the Jewish people as a race for not accepting the teaching of Jesus. In the Gospel Jesus blesses those who never had the advantage of being exposed to the teachings of the prophets and yet believe. This is an acknowledgement by the Gospel writers, a generation later, of the faith of the pagans. Yet his warnings about closed eyes and hard hearts are not intended just for the Jewish people. They challenge every person who resists God's grace, for the reasons Jesus goes on to give.

Jesus does not focus on any particular group of people but on the thwarted tendency to good that lies in every human heart. God's good news, in whatever form it comes, is thwarted by superficiality, complacency, lack of confidence and the desire for a security based on consumption and status. These are universal human dilemmas. Our response to grace is part of the freedom given to us from the beginning of creation. God is a God of surprises, but is also ready to be surprised by us.

Application

It is a great blessing to us to have heard the message of Jesus and responded to it in faith. This is not the result of our virtue but of God's mercy. Why some people believe and others don't is a mystery known only to God. It is not our place to judge, but we are invited to do what we can to make the faith attractive to others. For some people, we are the only Gospel that they will ever hear. We are the only letter from God that they will ever read. Each of us is called to be a disciple and an evangelist in our own way. Even if we never see the fruits of our labours, we can trust that the closer we come to Jesus, the more like him we will become.