



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

11:45 am

Weekdays & Holy Days

11:45 am

Confessions

By appointment. Contact

Fr Dermot Roache 201-567-0450 Ext 212

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache
201-567-0450 Ext. 212

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$750

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of November 8, - November 14, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 8	10:00	Sung Choi Family and Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Sung Choi Family
	11:45	Henryk & Theresa Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
Mon. Nov. 9	9:30	Potencia S Naong	May
	11:45	Pruzinsky/Maher Families+	Family
Tue. Nov. 10	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Gregory Roche+	Lewis Family
Wed. Nov. 11	9:30	Potencia S Naong	May
	11:45	Jamina Mojak+	Richard & Lydia
Thurs. Nov. 12	9:30	Andrej Mikulak+	Family
	11:45	Dec. Members of the Guiney & McCarthy Families	
Fri. Nov. 13	9:30	Mary & Joseph Falotico+	
	11:45	Janet Amoral+	John Amoral
Sat. Nov. 14	9:30	Potencia S Naong	May
	11:45	Dioneo Aguirre+	Rosanna Ambulo

MASS INTENTION BOOK: The book for announced Masses is open.

Today's Readings: *First Reading* Wisdom 6:12-16

The writer reflects on wisdom, personified as God's agent in the world who shares intimately in God's life and creative purpose.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

God promises us life everlasting as we share in the resurrection of Jesus. We cannot be certain how this will be, but we can be sure that God's promises are to be trusted.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

The parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids is principally about having hearts, minds and spirits open and alert to detect the presence of Jesus in our lives.

“Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.”

Illustration

The Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 was a devastating tragedy which took thousands of lives, with whole communities destroyed. There are many stories of animals behaving strangely before the tsunami struck. Elephants, dogs and cats, even flamingos are said to have given signs of alarm and gone into hiding, or onto higher ground in order to save themselves. Scientists deny that animals have any kind of “sixth sense”, but agree that the more finely tuned senses of sight, hearing and scent in many animals may alert them to changes in the atmosphere long before humans become aware that danger threatens.

While humans don’t have more than five senses either, and those are often far more blunt than animal senses, the Bible teaches that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and thus have a built-in capacity for intuiting the things of faith and God’s presence in our lives. This is what the first reading describes as wisdom. It is part of our spiritual DNA, as it were, but unlike the heightened sense of animals, it isn’t just an automatic reaction on the part of humans when faced with the divine. It will stay dormant unless we are open to the possibility of there being a God who wants to be in a mutually loving relationship with us. There are people who go through life never apparently feeling a need for or interest in God. There are others who are brought up in a faith community and learn all about God, but as a distant notion, without much relevance to their daily lives. There are also those who have an active faith, but see it as confined to matters they consider religious. Human life, from this perspective, is divided into the sacred and the secular spheres. God inhabits the holy sphere and it is there that we must look for and pay attention to God. The rest is just “the world”, and not worth bothering about.

Gospel Teaching

But in joining the human race as one like us in all things but sin, Jesus inhabited every aspect of human life. There is no part of our experience, good or bad, where Jesus is absent. So the main message of the parable of the foolish and wise bridesmaids is not just about being alert to the coming of Christ on judgement day, or even on the day of our own death. It’s about having the senses of our soul finely tuned in order to detect God’s presence in all aspects of our human living. In that sense any and every moment is the one in which the bridegroom announces his arrival to those awake and alert enough to notice and recognise him.

This also means that God’s presence around us requires a response on our part. Matthew’s Gospel tells us that when Christ demands an account of our lives on judgement day, we will not be asked about our liturgical correctness or our enthusiasm for religious observance. We will be asked if we fed those who were hungry, clothed those who were naked, were compassionate with those sick and in prison and welcomed the stranger. Our capacity to “touch the suffering flesh of Christ in others”, as Pope Francis has said, is the proof of our wisdom.

The Living Word

ALL SOULS.- The lists with the names of our deceased loved ones will be placed in the main altar for the whole month of November.

CONDOLENCES

The SMA Community is saddened by the death of our longtime friend, Rosemary Docherty. She passed away on October 15, 2020 in Chicago. Our prayers are with her family and friends.

MAY GOD GRANT HER ETERNAL REST.

PLEASE NOTE: Sundays Only.– Starting the first Sunday of Advent, we will have two Masses (10:00 am and 12:00 noon)