



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: \$458

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of November 15, - November 21, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 15	10:00	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Henry & Lucy Lewis+	Lewis Family
Mon. Nov. 16	9:30	Potencia Naong	May
	11:45	Alsberge/Olson Families+	Mary Ann Pruzinsky
Tue. Nov. 17	9:30	Potencia S Naong	May
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Wed. Nov. 18	9:30	Potencia S. Naong	May
	11:45	Deceased Members of the Costa Family	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Nov. 19	9:30	Julia Little+	
	11:45	All Souls in Purgatory	Lewis Family
Fri. Nov. 20	9:30	Nancy & Barbara Eppley+	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Ana Tumang+ Norvic Arabia+	Linda Rubio
Sat. Nov. 21	9:30	Catherine M Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Teresa Salvatore+	Diane & Mike Bruno

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

Today's Readings: *First Reading* Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31
The most attractive qualities in a person are not beauty or charm, but trustworthiness, wisdom, industriousness and generosity.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Speculating when the world will end is not the best way to prepare for it. We need to be working hard and doing the right thing when the Lord comes.

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus tells a parable about a rich man who entrusted his disposable wealth to the care of servants during his absence. He was furious to find that one of them made no effort to put it to good use.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Illustration

“Speak properly,” parents sometimes complain when their children use slang language. Young people, however, are not the only ones who cut corners. Few of us use the formal word “telephone” these days, or to say “mathematics”, when “maths” will do. Rather than search our memories for more precise terminology, people often refer to a “thing” or a “whatsit”. Just as we take shortcuts in our journeys, we economise in the way we speak.

Youngsters who get criticised for a lazy way of speaking might well argue that they are at a higher stage of development! George Zipf would have agreed with them. He was a Harvard academic, working in the 1940s, who saw the growing simplification of language as part of an evolutionary process. He noticed how most people use only six hundred words in daily conversation even though they have a much wider vocabulary, and concluded that we will always try to solve problems in ways that minimise the overall workload. He called it “the principle of least effort”. That principle does not just apply to humans. All animals naturally choose the shortest route; the least demanding method; what is most convenient to themselves. So it is that some people give up easily until encouraged to persevere; that some are reluctant to volunteer until shamed into doing so; and that even the most well behaved of us may occasionally ignore signs to “Keep off the grass” and step out across a lawn when the path takes us by a longer route.

Gospel Teaching

A servant of God, however, is called always to go that extra mile. Love overrides “the principle of least effort”. It goes out of its way to do everything possible. We do not ask, “How little can I get away with?” but “What else may I do?” The kingdom of heaven operates by the principle of utmost effort, not least.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the story of three servants to whom a rich man entrusted his fortune. Imposing loans on people was common in ancient times as a profitable way to deposit cash. Two of his employees were delighted to have such trust placed in them. After all, a talent was a coin of value, and he had lent them five and ten talents apiece. Eager to please him, they showed enterprise in their use of his money; unlike the third servant, who wanted to save himself any trouble or anxiety. He simply dug a hole and buried it.

God does not exploit people; nor was Jesus a financial advisor. He was interested in a different kind of treasure. God is rich in kindness and we are distributors of that grace. What God bestows is not meant to be hoarded. God gives us wisdom and skills that we may be of service; God forgives us that we might treat other people generously. Such is the “commerce” of God’s kingdom: a reckless investment of ourselves with no certainty of return, other than to increase the circulation of love in this world.

Application

Jesus had harsh things to say of the servant who buried his one talent. All of us have some ability, however modest, and to hide it away or use it only for ourselves is more than laziness. What we have is not gifted, but loaned to us: we are trusted stewards of a grace intended for everyone.

It may feel risky to enter the “marketplace” of other people’s lives. Offering friendship can make us vulnerable. It was fear, perhaps, that kept the lazy servant from trading his one talent. Fear that we might get nothing in return can sometimes make people hesitant to give. The servant assumed his master to be a hard-nosed businessman who expected too much of people, and it may be that we have grown up with the same idea about God. Jesus shows us what our heavenly Father is really like: God’s happiness is in sharing. And so is ours. The principle of least effort will never make anyone happy. Easy achievements are not the most satisfying. Effort, time and loving attention give value to human endeavour and dignify people. The principle of the greatest effort brings a sense of fulfilment. It is the worship of our lives to give back with thanks what belongs to God. These closing days of the church year are a good time to make an audit of just how indebted we really are. Maybe we, too, have something buried within us which might yet be consecrated to God’s service.

The Living Word

PLEASE NOTE: Sundays Only.–

Starting the first Sunday of Advent, we will have two Masses (10:00 am and 12:00 noon)

SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, December 5, 2020 - 8pm
GOD’S MERCY IS HERE!**