



# Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue  
 Tenafly, NJ 07670  
 Phone: 201-567-0450  
 Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)



## Mass Schedule

Sundays  
 10:00 am; 12 noon  
Weekdays & Holy Days  
 11:45 am  
Christmas & New Year's Day  
 10:00 am; 12 noon

## 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:

Thank you for your support.

Please remember  
 to support your  
 local parishes.

## **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
 Provincial Superior  
**Fr Dermot Roache,**  
 House Superior

## **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Masses for the week of January 3, 2021 - January 9, 2021**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Jan. 3	10:00	Mary Jean Quinn+	Martha Paladino
	12:00	Deanna Ammiratto	Lorraine & Nick Chiorazzi
Mon. Jan. 4	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Sr Anne Hamill (Liv.)	Sister
Tue. Jan. 5	9:30	John French+	Duggan Family
	11:45	Siozak Family+	
Wed. Jan. 6	9:30	Dec. Members of the Guiney Family	
	11:45	Laura & Virgil Costa+	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Jan. 7	9:30	Dec. Members of the McCarthy Family	
	11:45	Nancy Wilson+	Mary Fischbach
Fri. Jan. 8	9:30	Felisa Ballen+	
	11:45	Manuel Villarrosa+	Rosanne Ambulo
Sat. Jan. 9	9:30	Oliva Vasquez+	
	11:45	Felisa Padaloy & Andaya Family+	Linda Rubio

## **Today's Readings: *First Reading* Isaiah 60:1-6**

*The prophet foretells the manifestation of God's glory to the whole world. Those who do not yet know God will be drawn joyfully to the light of truth.*

## ***Second Reading* Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6**

*Jesus is mystery made known, and through God's generosity the apostles are entrusted to share that good news with Jews and Gentiles alike.*

## ***Gospel* Matthew 2:1-12**

*Mysterious visitors from the east come seeking the long-prophesied king of the Jews. Though Herod deceives them, they are led to the Christ child by a star.*

## THE ANGELUS

Do you remember the bells at 6am, noon and evening? The Angelus. This wonderful prayer evolved in the 16th century.

The Angelus is the summary of the great Annunciation when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with great, (if somewhat startling), news! As we read in Luke's Gospel, (Luke 1:26-38) God wished Mary, truly a model of humility, to be the mother of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! His desire for her brings to mind the line from Matthew's gospel: "Whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matt 23:12).

Blessed Mary was the perfect choice. She had been born without the stain of original sin, as defined by the Church's dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

When Our Lady calls herself the handmaid, the servant, of the Lord, in the Angelus (from Luke 1:38) it is with inspiring humility and *sincerity*. How many politicians do we see today who talk a good game about service but basically just want to set up their own little fiefdoms and raid the public cookie jar? Or how many other insincere displays of humility do we see on TV, social media or in our daily lives?

Our Lady's humility was genuine. The Blessed Mother was happy to have God work through her. As St. Alphonsus de Liguori notes in his classic work *The Glories of Mary*, "her only desire was that her Creator, the giver of every good thing, should be praised and blessed."

She thought of herself first and foremost as God's servant, seeking glory **not** for herself but rather **only** for Him. In so doing, she became, as St. Augustine put it rather poetically, a "heavenly ladder, by which God came into the world," descending from heaven to earth, to become flesh in her womb.

The Angelus marks Our Lady's role in the Incarnation, when it quotes from Luke's Gospel "be it done to me according to thy word" (Lk 1:38). This wonderful event could not have happened without her consent, without what is known as her *fiat*. By saying "yes" to God in allowing herself to become His mother, she showed us the ultimate example of trust in our Creator!

The Divine exchange that we celebrate now at Christmas shows us that Jesus came to this earth so that we may live eternally with Him by means of his death and resurrection. When we pray the Angelus with humility and love, we are emulating Mary's faith in His goodness. We are blessed in that we can ask both God *and* His Blessed Mother for their assistance on our journey towards Eternal Life! Rediscover the Angelus!

St. Joseph Patron of the Church, Pray for us!

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

**THANK YOU!** To those who sent Christmas cards and goodies for every one to enjoy Christmas. Thank you also to those who arranged and prepared the Chapel and the House for Christmas. With sincere gratitude to all of you who always show us your love and support.

God bless you all!

**MASS INTENTION BOOK:** The book for announced Masses is

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