



# Society of African Missions

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



### Administration:

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

### 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. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA  
 551-449-4357

### Sunday Collection: \$574

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of February 7, 2021 - February 13, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Feb. 7	10:00	Theresa Molloy+	Angela
	12:00	Laura & Virgil Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Feb. 8	9:30	Special Intentions John Tietjen	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Timothy O'Connell+	O'Connell Family
Tue. Feb. 9	9:30	Kathleen Ryan+	Breda Walsh
	11:45	Luz DiMacali (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
Wed. Feb. 10	9:30	Joseph Choi+	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Assoero & Lora Passarelli+	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
Thurs. Feb. 11	9:30	Robert McDermott+ Robert Murphy+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Rose & Joseph Abitante Jr.	
Fri. Feb. 12	9:30	Joseph Choi+	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Jim Higgins+10th Anniversary	Family
Sat. Feb. 13	9:30	Dolly Molloy+	Hickey Family
	11:45	Fr. Vincent Capodanno+	Rick Kane



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**Today's Readings:**

*First Reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7*  
*For Job, life is just one continuous round of drudgery. There is no end in view to his pain and misery.*

*Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23*  
*Paul takes up his responsibility to preach the Gospel with joy and enthusiasm. He feels free to offer himself to present the Good News for the benefit of all.*

*Gospel Mark 1:29-39*  
*Jesus' healing attracts the crowds, but he needs to be free to bring the Good News beyond the confines of his own area.*

# *Everybody is looking for you.”*

## **Illustration**

*We are all looking for something. We all want to be happy. For children, happiness may simply be the experience of having their needs satisfied, being made to feel good, safe, secure. As we grow older, these needs become more complex. We need to succeed, to be recognised, to occupy our own place in the world. Every person lives this process of development, each in his or her own unique way. Of course, we are limited by the particular circumstances in which we find ourselves. For some, the limitations take the form of poverty, or health, or education, or the constantly changing face of world history. Nevertheless, we all want to be happy and to make the most of the hand we have been dealt.*

## **Gospel Teaching**

*Today our scripture readings help us to explore these deep human longings in the light of God’s word and God’s plan for us. If we know the story of Job, maybe we can recognise his changing fortunes as typical of the human condition. For reasons he doesn’t know or understand, his life has become unbearable. Who is to blame? As far as he knows, he has been faithful to all the demands of the Law, so he refuses to accept that his troubles are a punishment from God. But he also knows the goodness of God and so he refuses to blame God for all that has gone wrong in his life. In the end, he simply has to surrender and entrust himself to God’s loving mercy.*

*On the other hand, St Paul is able to view the world in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. He sees that this is the final answer to everyone’s quest for happiness, starting with himself, and so he commits himself to sharing this Gospel with everyone, whatever it might cost him.*

*In today’s Gospel we find Jesus responding with love and compassion to those he meets. They know that Jesus can help them, whatever their need might be. They come to him from all around the town bringing people who are sick and those possessed by demons, and Jesus cures them all. But in his night-time prayer, Jesus realises that his mission goes beyond this little seaside town. “Everybody is looking for you,” he is told by the disciples and Jesus knows the truth that “everybody” is more than this local population – it is the whole of humanity, for all time. He has to move on. His mission for the salvation of the world is just beginning. Although “everybody” is looking for an immediate resolution to their problems, this is symptomatic of their deep, inner longing for happiness, and ours.*

## **Application**

*The issue for us is just the same as ever. Like Job, we puzzle over the difficulties of life. Why do we suffer, especially when we try to do what we believe we should be doing? Why do some people seem to have an easier life than others? Is there really a God? If so, does God not care about what is happening to us? As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is God’s answer to all our questions. St John reassures us that “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.” And so, like the people of the time of Jesus, we are among all those who are “looking for him”. We need to hear his voice. We need to know that he is close to us. We need to feel the power of his healing touch. And it is here that we find the one who, risen from the dead, reassures us, “Don’t be afraid. I have overcome the world. Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.”*

*Now, like Paul, we have been commissioned to go out and share the Good News of our faith: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and he lives in the hearts of all those who believe in him. He enables us to live in the hope of eternal life, where suffering and death, pain and sorrow will be no more. But this is not a “pie in the sky”, “happy ever after” ending; it is rather a challenge to get on with building God’s kingdom here and now. Together, strengthened through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, we will discover the happiness for which we are all searching.*

The Living Word

**NEXT SATURDAY, February 13**  
**8:00pm**  
**HOLY HOUR**

NOTE: Wednesday, February 17th marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed after 11:45 am Mass and upon request.