



# 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: \$732

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Masses for the week of February 28, 2021 - March 6, 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. 28	10:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh & Family
	12:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Mon. March 1	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Eileen & John Ryan+	Breda Walsh & Family
Tue. March 2	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	John & Edward Martin+	John Tietjen
Wed. March 3	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Peter Quinn+	Mary Quinn & Family
Thurs. March 4	9:30	Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC+	
	11:45	Peter Quinn+	Mary Quinn & Family
Fri. March 5	9:30	Special Intentions Neil & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Lukchis Families	
Sat. March 6	9:30	Gerardo Sozio+ Birthday	Susan & Bob Iacullo
	11:45	Special Intentions Neil & Forgrave Families	

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations  
 of the Cross in the  
 Chapel each Friday  
 during Lent at 7:30pm

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

*Abraham is the great Old Testament figure of faith. At the age of seventy-five he answered the call of God and set off for an unknown land.*

**Second Reading** Romans 8:31-34

*Paul poses questions: "With God on our side who can be against us?" "When God acquits, could anyone condemn?" The answer is "No!"*

**Gospel** Mark 9:2-10

*For the second time in the Gospels, at Jesus' transfiguration, the voice of the Father informs the disciples that Jesus is the Father's beloved Son and adds, "Listen to him."*

**“Take your son’ God said... ‘offer him as a burnt offering.’”**

### **Illustration**

*Even in an age when much formality from the past has been discarded, some things don't change. A good example is the list of social conventions that still operate. For example, when we meet people we have not seen before, a polite handshake has long been the norm – at least, until the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic required us to socially distance – whereas we are much less formal with family and friends. Convention is determined by many factors – age is one. Conventions dictated by formal practice are nowadays probably more regularly seen among those of an older age range, whereas young people may be much less formal within their social settings. Convention, of course, differs from culture to culture and also from one age group to another, and the setting is also important. It's interesting to observe how people's behaviour varies according to how at ease they are – or not – with others. When we know people well, it is easy to relate to them in a relaxed manner, but when we don't have that familiarity, or if we're unsure of the possible reaction of the person we have just met, then we might be more wary.*

*It's in the latter situation that we find Abraham when, slowly but surely, he is getting to know the God he had not known until he was seventy-five years old. Abraham made himself a backup plan. He left most of his family behind, but brought along his wealthy nephew, Lot; Abraham left much of his wealth, but not by any means all of it. Later on in the story, Abraham will seek clarification from God to see if the deal is still on. And then, as we heard in today's first reading, Abraham is really put to the test. In his old age, at long last he has a son who will be his heir: Isaac, whose name means “he will laugh”. Abraham's dream has come true, his prayers are answered. He can rely on God – or can he?*

### **Gospel Teaching**

*One day, Abraham is told by God to take his son Isaac to a place where he is to sacrifice the boy as a burnt offering. Abraham is distraught, but prepares to obey God. The journey is long and its account is painful to read. Isaac starts to ask why there is no animal for the sacrifice. Abraham evades the issue by saying that God will provide the sacrifice. The tension builds up until the point that Abraham is prepared to kill his son on the stone altar. Eventually Isaac must know what his father intends to do. Then God acts. An angel stays Abraham's hand and the boy is freed. A ram caught in a thicket is sacrificed instead.*

*What are we to make of the story? Did God really want Abraham to kill his son? Had Abraham misunderstood God's instructions? The Hebrew word for a burnt offering sacrifice is also the word for “ascending” – a sacrifice where the victim went up in smoke, towards God. So is it possible that God wanted Abraham to give up his son, in other words to let him go free? Was Abraham, who waited so long for this son, so protective that, instead of Isaac being the means for God's promise to be fulfilled, he was hampered by his father's protective action? We can imagine that Isaac needed to be freed from his father's overpowering attention if he was to carry out his part in God's plan.*

The Living Word

**NOTE.-** Mass intentions still available.

The 9:30am Mass intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.

**REMEMBER!**

**HOLY HOUR**

**March 6, 2021 8:00pm**