



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
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 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$931

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,
House Superior

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of June 27, 2021 – July 3, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. June 27	10:00	Rodrigo Espinal+	Rose & Joe Murphy
	12:00	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Mon. June 28	9:30	Neil Labay (Liv.) Birthday	Family
	11:45	Josephine Castillo (Liv.)	Rosanne
Tue. June 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Eileen Hopkins+	Mary Quinn & Family
Wed. June 30	9:30	Jim Murray+	Patricia Lefevere
	11:45	David Wilson+	Mary Fischbach
Thurs. July 1	9:30	Deceased Members of the Guiney Family	
	11:45	Mildred Krapels+	Carmela Logan
Fri. July 2	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. July 3	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Richard Walsh	Mary Ann Harte

Today's Readings:

First Reading *Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24*

God's love is overflowing, and so God created an abundance of life. Death came into the world, not through God, but through the devil's hand.

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 8:7. 9. 13-15*

The community of Christians has enjoyed the generosity of Jesus and they should reflect this in the mercy they show others. But in helping others, they should not ignore their own needs.

Gospel *Mark 5:21-43*

During his ministry, Jesus is surrounded by people all the time. But he turns to those in greatest need. His miracles are signs of God's mercy available to us all.

“Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was.”

Illustration

Have you noticed how much people talk nowadays about the work-life balance? There's a sense that many of us struggle with the demands on us, from our employers, from our families, our friends, even from our church. We're pulled this way and that, ending up doing nothing very well. Sometimes the cost is material: there are demands on our money. But often it's time that is the real problem. And sometimes there are occasions when we might shy away from helping someone. Work-life balance can be an excuse, too. We tell ourselves that we really haven't got time to make a phone call to a lonely relative, or bother to go to the food bank to make a donation, or visit someone in hospital. "I need some me-time" is a popular twenty-first-century refrain.

Gospel Teaching

In today's second reading, St Paul is very concerned about striking a balance, urging the Corinthian Christians to get things in order, so that they look after those in need but meet their own needs as well. "Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was," he reminds them. God's generosity is vast, as the reading from Wisdom points out: God created everything, it tells us. And that huge embrace for the world is evident in God's Son too. Mark's Gospel recounts Jesus being pressed on all sides. People want his attention and his healing. He attends to Jairus whose daughter is sick; we can imagine how desperate the father must be. The crowd keeps pressing and in the middle of it, as Jesus is probably struggling to keep his footing when he is jostled while following Jairus to his home, there's someone else in need. A woman who is bleeding touches his garment. And then, hearing that Jairus' daughter is dead, Jesus doesn't hold back. He visits her, regardless.

For people of Jesus' time, this was remarkable behaviour. They had a horror of blood and a woman with a haemorrhage like this would have been seen as ritually unclean. Touching a dead body would also have been seen as unacceptable: Jesus would have contaminated himself. But instead he responds to these people, just as he would to anyone else, recognising the person in need. Healing the woman with the haemorrhage and bringing Jairus' daughter back to life would have been extraordinary moments. Mark tells us that the people who witnessed the little girl coming back to life were overcome with astonishment. We can imagine how Jesus' actions were so shocking to people for whom death was something that took people so rapidly in an age with little medical knowledge. The reading from the book of Wisdom stresses that death is not God's doing. Now Jesus is overcoming it.

The incarnation of Jesus was, above all else, a physical thing, and this Gospel is full of the physical. There are the crowds of people, pushing and shoving. There is the woman with the haemorrhage. There is the tenderness of Jesus taking the hand of the little girl. And then he overcomes death, the end of the physical body, and restores her to life. God is not some ethereal being here: God is among us, part of our lives. Indeed, Jesus is so practical about the material world that he urges Jairus and the others to give the restored little girl something to eat.