



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

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 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

### S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA  
551-449-4357

### Sunday Collection: \$1,137

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

### Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,  
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,  
House Superior

## SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Masses for the week of August 15, 2021 – August 21, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Aug. 15	10:00	Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Mariana Cho
	12:00	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters
Mon. Aug. 16	9:30	Connie Bellandres Birthday (Liv.)	Fe Vela
	11:45	Angela McCabe (Liv.)	Sister
Tue. Aug. 17	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Desrochers Family	
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ Ana Tumang+	Linda Rubio
Wed. Aug. 18	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of Paradis Family	
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Aug. 19	9:30	Reverend Raymond C Plourde+	
	11:45	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Fri. Aug. 20	9:30	Reny Vela (Liv.)	Fe Vela
	11:45	Fr. Timothy Christy (Liv.)	Friend
Sat. Aug. 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Ralph Iacullo+ Birthday	Susan & Bob Iacullo

### **Today’s Readings:** *First Reading* Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6. 10

*Mary is the archetypal disciple in whom we see, as in a mirror, all that we can become through God’s grace, despite our human weakness. The book of the Apocalypse links us to the woman who, through the birth of her son, is instrumental in crushing the power of evil.*

### **Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

*Orthodox icons of the Dormition of Mary tell of the belief that at her death Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven as a foretaste of the resurrection. They express the hope that all human experience is destined for glory through the saving power of Jesus.*

### **Gospel** Luke 1:39-56

*As an unmarried woman Mary had no status in Israel. As an unmarried mother she risked public shame and death by stoning. She had nothing, yet she believed that God’s power could make of her a blessing for all the world.*

***“Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.”***

*Illustration.- The painted monasteries of Romania are a UNESCO heritage site and treasures of medieval art. The monasteries are painted from foundation to roof, on the outside and often on the inside with intricate icons. When you stand inside, it feels as if you have been taken into the icons themselves and are living the mysteries they depict from within. This is the whole point. These icons are a prayer in themselves and convey in brilliant artistic form the mystery that they illustrate. By contemplating the images, we learn how to live in the mystery. This is especially true of the icons for today’s feast.*

*Gospel Teaching.- In the Gospels Jesus does not single his mother out for honour because of her biological role but responds to her as someone who hears God’s word and gives it flesh and bones. Like all his disciples, Mary walks by faith and not by sight. She treasures what words she has received of Jesus, pondering them in her heart. Her prayer gives her insight into what is ungodly in the world and the faith and confidence that she can do something about it, despite her lowly status.*

*Where pictures of the Nativity typically show Mary cradling the body of her son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, Orthodox icons of the Dormition of the Mother of God – which they celebrate on the same day as we celebrate this feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – show Jesus cradling in his arms the body and soul of his mother, wrapped in a shroud as she is born into everlasting life. This is a foretaste for us of our own rising into glory after death.*

*How do we catch a glimpse of this glory to come? The Mary of the Magnificat glories in the power of God who overturns all the signs of toxic power within society. God humbles the oppressor, forcing those sated with consumption to face their own emptiness while lavishly giving to those who are poor and hungry what is theirs by human right. Mary is portrayed as a warrior queen, challenging the forces of sin and human greed in the name of the God whose power transforms our world through our prayer and action and our refusal to give evil the last word.*

*Application .- Mary can help us find a way to draw closer to Jesus and to one another. In John’s Gospel the beloved disciple is a model for all the followers of Christ. The dying Jesus tells him to cherish Mary as his mother, and she is told to care for him as her son. When the Church is born by the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Mary is there, at the heart of the community of those who worship Jesus and seek in his name to create a world after God’s own heart.*

*Her questions in the Gospel narratives are our questions – how is it that God can work through such weak instruments as we feel ourselves to be? Why does God sometimes seem to hide from us when we search with such anxiety? How can the tasteless water of our lives be turned into the life-giving wine of God’s grace? Her song can also be our song, exulting in a God who enters fully into all that is fragile and earthy in human experience, into the blood and guts of our human bodies but also into their beauty and their capacity to give and receive love.*

*God transforms the daily details of our lives into a song of glory. The fullness of life is ours for the asking, if we are willing to pay attention to God’s word and, like Mary, treasure all that we know of Jesus and ponder it in our hearts. God will dethrone the false idols we create and teach us to nurture a spirit of grateful humility. God will satisfy our deepest hungers if we are willing to turn away from false securities. Above all, God will bless us with mercy when we face the truth of our own poverty with hope and confidence. We are blessed not because, by some accident of birth, we are members of the Church, but because we have learned to hear the word of God and keep it.*

The Living Word