



# 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: \$1,233**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

### Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,  
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,  
House Superior

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of August 22, 2021 – August 28, 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. 22	10:00	Zachary Monet+ O’Caram	Friends John & Margaret
	12:00	Rose and Joseph Abitante+	
Mon. Aug. 23	9:30	Susan McKay+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Tue. Aug. 24	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Desrochers Family	
	11:45	Special Intentions of Ann Marie Murphy	Michelle Sullivan
Wed. Aug. 25	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Cecile Pasquale+ Alma Bueno Colobong+	Linda Rubio
Thurs. Aug. 26	9:30	Kim N. Neill—Happy Birthday	
	11:45	Sullivan Family (Liv.)	Michelle Sullivan
Fri. Aug. 27	9:30	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Ann Peltier Broaddus+ Joseph Kurpiel, Jr+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Aug. 28	9:30	Reverend Raymond C Plourde+	
	11:45	Linda Bishop+ Birthday	Rich & Marilyn

### Today’s Readings:

**First Reading** Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

*Joshua asks the people to renew their promise to serve the Lord always.*

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:21-32

*St Paul speaks about marriage, obedience and fidelity, love and self-sacrifice.*

**Gospel** John 6:60-69

*Jesus, like Joshua, calls for his disciples to remain faithful after some had gone away.*

## ***“We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”***

### ***Illustration***

*Judas Iscariot is an enigmatic character. Why did he betray Jesus? Was it just the money? Did he stop believing in Jesus? Or was it disillusionment? The famous passion play which is staged every ten years at the German village of Oberammergau takes this latter view. Judas did believe: he believed Jesus was going to inaugurate the new glorious kingdom of God expected by the Jews. But he thought Jesus was being slow to act. Judas grows weary of following Jesus. He takes himself off and starts thinking, “Why should I continue to follow him?... I am tired of believing and waiting... I wish to share his reign. It fails to materialise, and what is forthcoming – dread and suffering. Who feels like sharing those with him? Not I! Not I!” But after Jesus is condemned to death Judas falls into despair. He throws back the thirty silver pieces and says to himself, “How kind he has been toward me! How gently he comforted me when dark dejection oppressed my soul! How he warned me, when I was already harbouring this shameless betrayal. And I, this is how I have rewarded him... Not a disciple any longer.”*

### ***Gospel Teaching***

*One of the most poignant events in the Old Testament is when old Joshua assembled God’s people at Shechem, just before he died. He wanted to hear them make a decision, an irrevocable decision, either to serve or to desert God: to make their decision and then to stand by it for life. And to his joy he heard them echo his own vow, “We have no intention of deserting the Lord... We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”*

*One of the most poignant events in the New Testament is towards the end of the sermon Jesus preached about the bread of life, when he declared that, “Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.” Some of his followers said, “This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?” And many of them left him. Then came that most heart-breaking moment when Jesus turned to the twelve apostles: “What about you, do you want to go away too?” Like Joshua he calls for a decision. And Peter spoke for them all, “Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.”*

*Many Catholics today find some Catholic teaching difficult. St Paul, in the second reading, instructs wives to obey their husbands. That will strike some as “intolerable language”, and indeed in Catholic marriage vows brides have never promised to obey their husbands. But before we get too annoyed with St Paul, let us notice his next words: “Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her.” Jesus never made unreasonable demands on the Church, nor must husbands make unreasonable demands on their wives. Rather must a husband sacrifice himself for love of her. And they form one body. This was breakthrough teaching on the status of women and marriage.*

### ***Application***

*We may question other teachings of the Bible or the Church, but a closer study of them can sometimes alter our perceptions. In the end, if we question its teachings, or the Church is beset by scandals and we are let down by our priests, then, like those early followers of Jesus, we may even come close to leaving him. So what is it that holds us in the Church? Perhaps, for some, it is the response of Peter, “Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.” We may sense the truth of these words; and when it comes down to it, what keeps many people close to Jesus is love for him. We may love him because of the Church; and sometimes, perhaps, it may seem we love him despite the Church.*

*Judas, of course, was the exception among the apostles. And there are many real saints doing God’s work today. There are those whose lives have been transformed after being converted to Christ and who, coming into the company of Christ’s faithful people, have discovered this to be true: “You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.”*