



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 Frank Wright

201-567-0450 Ext 225

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 Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-256-0450 Ext. 253

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA

551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$1134

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 19	10:00	Joseph Choi+	Mariana Choi
	12:00	Victorio V. Torres+ & Sally Rivera+	Virgie & Julie
Mon. Sept. 20	9:30	Susan McKay+	Friend
	11:45	The Locasto+	Susan & Bob Iacullo
Tue. Sept. 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Julia Baird+	Kathleen Jaeger
Wed. Sept. 22	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Sept. 23	9:30	Angelica Fernandez	Daughters
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Fri. Sept. 24	9:30	Peter Cody+	Susan Cody
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	The Lawler Family
Sat. Sept. 25	9:30	Jonas Tolentino+	Erlinda Cortez
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler

Today's Readings:

First Reading Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

Wrongdoers are reluctant to trust people who focus on doing what is right and sometimes try to catch them out.

Second Reading James 3:16 – 4:3

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Jesus says that anyone who welcomes a little child in his name welcomes Christ himself; and anyone who welcomes Christ welcomes not him but the Father who sent him.

25th Sunday Reflection

Violence permeates the readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The wicked speaker in the Book of Wisdom boasts about what he will do to the righteous one. The reading is full of the speaker's sarcasm and mockery. His claim that he will not be held accountable for his deeds calls into question all the laws that bind human society together.

The second reading from the Letter of James asks the question, "Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?" And then, the writer goes on to answer his own question, "Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?" There is an inextricable connection between violence, whether on a large scale or small, and the disordered ambition and covetousness of the wicked who wreak acts of violence. Peace eludes the world, because human beings are dominated by the uncontrolled side of their nature.

And finally in Mark's Gospel, we have yet another prediction of Jesus's Passion and Death. When compared with the cardboard boasting of the first reading, the reality of what is predicted—Jesus's blood and death—is so striking that Peter cautions Jesus not to upset people. Perhaps, and I say that cautiously, we can understand where Peter is coming from, because, like most human beings, he wants in some way to deny the reality of violence. Like most people, he wants to minimize its effects on his mind. In this case, however, there is no denial possible; all the Gospel accounts of the Passion and Death of the Lord paint its reality very vividly. It will happen to Jesus.

Real violence is not a movie, something we order from Netflix. Real violence is not a TV western, where 30 seconds after the director shouts "cut!", the actors leap to their feet to pick up their paychecks. Real violence is what happens in this world of ours, usually but not always to other people. The second reading is very clear that real violence—wars and conflicts—arise from within us, from our own ambitions, our own desires to have it all, our own willingness to trample over the bodies of everyone else as we scramble our way to the top.

The disordered-ness of our own natures is reflected in the disordered nature of the world we live in. The civilians that are killed by both sides in the Middle East, the refugees from the Rwandan conflict whom I worked with in Kenya, the victims of aggression on our city streets, these are not just accidental victims that were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Violence happens because someone wants it to happen. In short, if we as individual persons and as larger groupings could learn to tame our own natures, we might be able to live together equitably. We might be able to live together in peace.

There is a bumper sticker that appeared maybe forty years ago, and which still holds true, "If you want peace, work for justice."

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

Please join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating 100 years of SMA presence in Tenafly!

Friday: October 1, 2021

11:45 AM