



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. Frank Wight

201-450-6586

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: \$1,379

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Dec. 19	10:00	Vincent Murphy+ Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	12:00	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Mon. Dec. 20	9:30	Sung Choi & Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Mariana Cho
	11:45	Christopher Barastan (Liv.) Birthday	Edna Barastan
Tue. Dec. 21	9:30	Ellen Elliott+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Wed. Dec. 22	9:30	Giuseppe & Carmela Saliturno	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Dec. 23	9:30	Tom Thomas & Jeffrey Jose (Birthday)	Jose Tom
	11:45	Ruth Kane+	Marilyn & Rich
Fri. Dec. 24	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	4:30PM	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
	7:30PM		
Sat. Dec. 25	10:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
	12:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	

Today's Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

The prophet announces the joyful coming of the messenger announcing peace, the messenger of good news who proclaims salvation.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

At many moments in the past, and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time God has spoken to us in the person of God's Son.

Gospel John 1:1-18

The Word, who existed with God in the beginning, came to live among us and we have seen his glory.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we have the account of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. It's all leading up to Christmas. What should we be looking at in this scene? The folks who put together the lectionary want us to focus on the identity of Jesus, as proclaimed by Mary's cousin Elizabeth. She recognizes that something tremendous is happening here.

I want you to notice that this recognition is unexpected. Mary and Elizabeth are both nobodies. Not only are they women, a definite disadvantage in Palestinian society, but they are also rural women from the hard-scrabble hill country of Galilee. Nobody is going to take notice of either of them.

In a sense, the fact that it is unexpected is familiar territory, because when we look back to the first reading from the Book of Micah, we see that the Savior to be born is from Bethlehem, the least of the cities of Judah. Bethlehem itself is insignificant, so insignificant that the name barely appears elsewhere in the Old Testament. The upshot is that if you were going to choose a place where the Savior would be born, or if you were going to choose the person who would bear the Savior, neither Galilee nor Bethlehem would be your first port of call. It's not easy to recognize God under these handicaps.

As the Prologue to John's Gospel points out, it was hard for people in the ancient world, all the Greek philosophers, to recognize Jesus as the Son of God. That's the reason that the writer goes on so long, talking about the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. On the other hand, for the Jewish people, the humble origins of Jesus were a stumbling block. No matter who you were, it was not easy to recognize God.

For us today, it's just as hard to see where God is at work in the world. We have to go back again and again to the stable in Bethlehem to remind ourselves that God appears in unexpected places, among hitherto unknown peoples, and in scandalous situations. We have to hone our senses, using our own Christian values as a guide, in order to say where God's salvific activity might be taking place.

If there is a lesson to be learned, it is not to be too hasty in our judgements.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Dec. 24th is a Friday. No 11:45 AM mass

Christmas Eve masses: 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Christmas Day masses: 10:00 AM and 12:00 AM

Dec. 26th Feast of the Holy Family: masses as usual at 10 AM and 12 AM

The SMA Community wish you all a blessed and holy season.
May God bless you and those you love as we celebrate.

MEMORIAL DONATION.-

The Altar Bread and Wine this week is donated by Rich Kane in memory of Ruth Kane.

