



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

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Masses for the week of December 26, 2021 – JANUARY 1, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Dec. 26	10:00	Thomas Micklas+	Rose Marie & Stephanie
	12:00	Deceased Members of Iacullo, Maurio & Sozio Families	Susan & Bob Iacullo
Mon. Dec. 27	9:30	Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Tue. Dec. 28	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ Alex Bote+	Linda Rubio
Wed. Dec. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Dec. 30	9:30	Bill Moran+	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
Fri. Dec. 31	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
Sat. Jan. 1	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Gemma Argao Aquino+	Rosanne

Today's Readings:

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

Samuel's mother gives Samuel to God, not to lose her son but to find him.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

The commandments are life, because they are given to us that we might live the life of God.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

The hidden life of Christ was not hidden from everyone. Christ needed other people to grow, just as we do. Otherwise he would not be fully human.

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Let's focus on the Christmas season as a whole rather than the feast of Christmas itself. Remember that the Christmas season extends through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and really through the feast of Candlemas at the beginning of February. Why is this? Why do we need so much time to celebrate the coming of the Savior among us? Well, first of all, because it's fun!

In addition, we keep up the celebrations, because we need time to flesh out the significance of Christ's coming. This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Jesus was born into a family, and this is not an accident. In that God has created us as human creatures who marry and give birth, and not as some kind of angelic creatures sufficient to itself, we can say that families are a conscious part of God's plan for us. But where does this take us? I want you to notice that the Collect, that is the opening prayer after the Gloria, links together the phrase "the shining example of family life" right next to the "bonds of charity." Love!

The example of the Holy Family is one of mutual support, of watching out for the other members of the family. The bishop in my last assignment in Montana, Bishop Austin Vetter, expressed it very well, when he said that the family is the first place, where people learn to love one another. In other words, if you receive love, when you are in the bosom of your family, then you will have been schooled in expressing and giving love later in life.

Of course, family units are under great stress and pressure in our present age, just as they have been in all previous times. The ability to sit down at the table and share the evening meal, or even the Sunday dinner, is difficult to achieve under normal circumstances because of all the competing pressures we experience, pressures to be elsewhere and to be doing something else. And I'm not even mentioning the kind of pressure that families are under in war-torn areas, or in areas of extreme poverty and destitution, where parents have few if any options to secure gainful employment in order to put food on the table in the first place. It's not easy being a family.

As we enter a new civil year, it behooves us as Christians, and particularly Catholic Christians, to support families in the many ways that they can be supported.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**The SMA Community wish you all a blessed
New Year!**