



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: \$1,327
 Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior
Fr Frank Wright,
 House Superior

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of February 13, 2022 – February 19, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 13	10:00	Theresa Molloy+	Angela Hickey
	12:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Mon. Feb. 14	9:30	Michael R Desrochers+	
	11:45	Catherine Doonan Moseley+	Sue Murphy
Tue. Feb. 15	9:30	Juliana & Joseph Lee (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Kathleen Ryan+	Breda Walsh
Wed. Feb. 16	9:30	Mary (Good Health)	Beatrice
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Feb. 17	9:30	Diane Crowell+	Martha DiPaolo
	11:45	John Hamill	Daughter
Fri. Feb. 18	9:30	Bless Victor Vocation	Beatrice
	11:45	Francis Mathus+	Family
Sat. Feb. 19	9:30	Joan Malone+	Peggy Goff
	11:45	Bridget & Bernard O’Connor	Family

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8

Jeremiah’s prophecy is uncompromising and must have challenged his hearers. Trusting in God alone rather than in human strength and wealth can seem like madness, but we are invited to do just that.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

Paul says that without Christ’s resurrection, his teaching makes no sense. Either we live and die by this, or we are simply talking nonsense. That is the challenge of faith.

Gospel Luke 6:17. 20-26

Luke’s Beatitudes are more uncompromising than those of Matthew. We don’t have the get-out clause here of being blessed if we are “poor in spirit”. It is poverty, pure and simple, that is blessed. The challenge for us is to dare to believe.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Today's reflection is an exercise in availing ourselves of the richness of Scripture; i.e. giving Scripture a chance to bear fruit in our lives. The first reading is from the Old Testament book of the Prophet Jeremiah, and it offers us an oracle, or in other words, it tells us what God would say to us, if we had ears to hear him.

In this passage, there's a comparison drawn between two trees: one tree is in the middle of the desert. Its roots are parched; its branches are leafless. The second tree is standing by the water. It extends its roots to drink from the riverbed, and its branches are full of leaves.

The first tree represents the folks who place their trust entirely in themselves. (They're full of themselves!) They don't need assistance from anyone. The Psalms describe this kind of person very well, because they place their trust in the strength of horses and the speed of their chariots, but God warns them that this reliance is vain.

The second tree represents the people who place their trust in God, in his ability to bless them, to prosper them, to heal them, to protect them, and finally to save them. Stick with this tree in your mind's eye, because it's a very striking image. Who wouldn't want to be by the water's edge, drinking one's fill of the river as it flows by? There's life here, for you can see it in how strength and energy pour out of the ground.

We can push the envelope here, because the image is not just about an individual tree on its own. Think about trees for a minute, how they function in an ecosystem: they release oxygen into the atmosphere so we can breathe; they hold down the earth's soil so it doesn't blow away and so men and women can plant their crops in it; they furnish a home for the birds and small animals. As a result of the water and the nutrients that the tree draws from the soil, the tree itself is life-giving in many ways. ... Can we become that tree? When we wake up in the morning, do we have the presence of mind to tell ourselves (again and again) that today I'm going to be that tree standing by the water. Can this image spur us on to new ways of being us? Can we give life to our relationships? Can we bring life to our workplaces? Can we give life to our communities and to our nation? Can we be fully alive in God?

By Fr. Frank Wright, SMA