



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: \$1,274

Thank you for your support.
Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses for the week of April 3, 2022 – April 9, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 3	10:00	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
	12:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Mon. April 4	9:30	Carol Corwall (Liv.)	Peggy Goff
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Tue. April 5	9:30	Douglas Edward Elliott+	
	11:45	Alejandro & Maria Ramirez de Arellano	Friend
Wed. April 6	9:30	Howard C.+	
	11:45	Ador Andaya & Job Parrenas+	Linda Rubio
Thurs. April 7	9:30	Philomena McGowan+	Sr. Susanne Reynolds
	11:45	Lokou Marie Esse+	Rich Kane
Fri. April 8	9:30	Chris McGowan+	Sr. Susanne Reynolds
	11:45	Deceased Members of Duggan Family+	Duggan Family
Sat. April 9	9:30	Agnes Hug+	
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa

Today’s Readings: *First Reading* Isaiah 43:16-21 *One phrase among many from this magnificent reading jumps out at us when God says, “there is no need to think about what was done before”.*

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14 *Paul reflects on what God’s forgiveness means for us.*

Gospel John 8:1-11 *A woman who has been caught in the act of committing a serious sin is not condemned by Jesus. Instead, she is told to go and sin no more.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS. There will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel each Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm

LENTEN REFLECTION. There will be short Lenten presentations/reflections on the Saturdays during Lent at 11:15 am before the 11:45 am mass. Mass as usual at 11:45 am.

CONFESSIONS. Starting on the first Saturday of Lent, there will be confessions every Saturday afternoon from 4-5 pm.

5th Sunday in Lent

The manner in which the first reading and the Gospel reading are juxtaposed today teaches us an important lesson by means of a paradox. Let's take a good look at the first reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah. What's happening here? In this small passage, God is telling his people in Babylon that he is about to do something new and incredible. Even though the Jewish people have been suffering in exile, God has been preparing for their deliverance, and at the same time, for their return to the land of Canaan, the land God had given them. God is on the verge of accomplishing something great and totally unexpected. My friends, this is a tale of salvation. It's God acting in history.

However, to take in the meaning of this passage for today's mass, we have to read this passage from Isaiah in the context of the Gospel reading from John. Note that all the Gospels paint a picture of a growing rift between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. In spite of this turmoil, you and I are supposed to understand that God is about to do something new and unexpected here as well, in the person of Jesus Christ.

There's a problem here. How can this deliverance of Jesus possibly be true? We have two story lines that are going in opposite directions—the story of God's intervention in history in Babylon is headed towards victory and salvation, whereas the story of Jesus facing growing danger is headed towards death, destruction, and defeat. This is a paradox; i.e., two things that can't both be true. Hmm?

The key in this paradox lies in Isaiah, in the two highways—the way to the sea and the way through the desert. The way to the sea passes through the Red Sea, where God parted the waters to let his people pass dry-shod to the other side, but the way through the desert is one of thirst and hardship, of a precarious food supply and trouble in the camp. But remember this: even though the two ways are diametrically opposed, they both lead to the promised land of Canaan.

Maybe this helps us to read the growing tension in the Gospel of John. Even this wrangling, even the attempts on Jesus' life, can lead to the victory and salvation that the story promises. It's good to note that even in the first reading, there is a kind of transformation of the wilderness at work. When God brings the Hebrew people in Babylon back to the promised land, he does so through the desert, but now this is the place where the wild beasts bow down in worship. This is the place, where God provides food and water for the animals living there.

In Lent, let us remember that we are headed towards Easter, and though the road may be rough and rocky, it leads us at long last to the empty tomb.

By Fr. Frank Wright, SMA

UKRAINE— In response to a request from the SMA house in Warsaw, Poland, the US Province is taking up a collection to assist them in housing and feeding Ukrainian refugees. Accepting funds up and through April 3rd. Checks payable to SMA FATHERS

NOTICE.- The Missionary Franciscan Sisters in Tenaflly will not be hosting The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. We ask that no groups or individuals come on the property at this time as, again, we have Covid-19 concerns. Thank you for your understanding.