



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 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA
 Director

201-256-0450 Ext. 253

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA

551-449-4357

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Sunday Collection: \$963.00

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
 House Superior

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of AUGUST 14, 2022 – AUGUST 20, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 14	10:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa	Victoria Ann Costa
Mon. Aug. 15	9:30	Robert Thomson+	Helen & Jerry Keegan
	11:45	Patrick Cabanilla+ Aida Zoleta+	Linda Rubio
Tue. Aug. 16	9:30	Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho (Liv.)	Sung Choi Family & Marianan Cho
	11:45	Angela McCabe (Liv.)	Sister
Wed. Aug. 17	9:30	Alexander Vladimir Rudnitsky+	Pruzinsky Family
	11:45	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters
Thurs. Aug. 18	9:30	Molly Pearson+	Pruzinsky Family
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ Ana Guzman (Liv.)	Linda Rubio
Fri. Aug. 19	9:30	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Joseph Kurpiel Sr.+ Ann Peltier Broaddus+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Aug. 20	9:30	Michael Kraynak (Liv.)	Vincent Pruzinsky
	11:45	Father Timothy Christy (Liv.)	Friend

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

The prophet Jeremiah is paying for his outspokenness and faithfulness to God but at the last moment is saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-4

Be bold in following the teachings of Jesus.

Gospel Luke 12:49-53

Jesus says he has come to bring not peace, but division.



20th Sunday Ordinary Reflection

I hope, when you are reading Sacred Scripture, you ask yourself sometimes why people bothered to include a particular passage in the Bible to begin with? It's often very puzzling. On the surface, that's my gut reaction to the first reading about Jeremiah being thrown into the empty cistern. Why bother? Why burden us with political shenanigans of 2,500 years ago? The reading lacks a certain currency, if you know what I mean. ... I feel kind of the same way about the Gospel passage from Luke: what does Jesus hope to gain by warning us about family divisions? What are WE supposed to do about it?

One strategy to deal with the seeming irrelevance of these passages is to search for some kind of universal truth, some timeless verity that we can pick out and satisfy ourselves that we have understood the text. Unfortunately, while we comb over the text, looking for some kind of ultimate lesson of life, we far too often throw away most of the particulars of the passage, as if the details of a political squabble five hundred years before Christ were mere window dressing that just gets in the way of the real truth. In my homilies, I very often use the term "leapfrog to the end" to describe this process. ... I'm not in favor of jumping to a conclusion this way.

If you really want to think WITH the text, then pay attention to the details. The story itself has something to tell us. For example, what is Jeremiah doing? Well, Jeremiah is reading the signs of the times, HIS times. He tells the citizens of Jerusalem to surrender to Babylon. He's a realist. For the nobles, what he is suggesting is treason. ... OK, who makes the right guess here? ... In the Gospel, Jesus points out quite rightly that what he is saying is going to upset the apple cart. People are going to cease to get along with each other. He's just telling it like it is.

If these readings are not about reading the signs of the times, about discernment of the here and now, I don't know what they're about. Is there a lesson to take away? You bet there is! We ourselves are in a polarized world, a polarized nation, and a polarized Church. We are in a world where leaders don't behave the way they should, where diseases don't behave the way they should, where the economy doesn't behave the way it should.

The signs of OUR times call for discernment on our part. True discernment points out to us that some change has already occurred, AND that there are more changes to come. Can we navigate? We hope that true discernment leads to the use of our imagination to thread our way through the chaos and, at the same time, and to remain faithful to who we are as Catholic Christians.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA