



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 Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. Frank Wright

201-567-0450 Ext 225/231

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

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of OCTOBER 9, 2022 – OCTOBER 15, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 9	10:00	Declan Powers+	Chris McDonnell
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Ann Costa
Mon. Oct. 10	9:30	Matthew Elliott+	
	11:45	Naciancinio Bontuyan+	Family
Tue. Oct. 11	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Mary & Al Pruzinsky+	Pruzinsky Family
Wed. Oct. 12	9:30	Augustine Elliott+	
	11:45	Gerarda Mauro+	Mary Quinn & Family
Thurs. Oct. 13	9:30	Beth Kelly Patterson+	Mary Ann Pruzinsky
	11:45	John & Theresa O’Connor+	Family
Fri. Oct. 14	9:30	Gertrudes Burns Elliott+	
	11:45	Maureen Portmann+ Peltier Family+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Oct. 15	9:30	Frances Elliott+	
	11:45	Dionisio Ducu (Living)	Janet Aberde

Today’s Readings:

First Reading 2 Kings 5:14-17

Cured of leprosy in the River Jordan, Naaman takes some soil of Israel home with him so that he can worship in his own land the God of Israel.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Paul may be in chains but that will never be the fate of the word of God.

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

Of ten lepers cured by Jesus, only one returns to give thanks: Jesus praises his faith.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

As with many stories in the Bible, there is a tendency on our part to trivialize their meaning. The story of the ten lepers is no exception to this. When I was growing up, it was very clear to me that the moral of this story is to remember to say please and thank you. The consequences for not doing so were sanctioned by this very story. ... Well, that's not bad as a starting point; and indeed, I want you to say please and thank you, but there is so much more that can be said.

In this case, are we talking about knowing how to say the right thing on the appropriate occasion, or are we talking about a foundational stance vis à vis the world around us and the universe in its entirety? Let me explain what I mean here lest you think I've gone off the deep end.

The easiest way to put down on paper what I mean is to say that EVERYTHING is a miracle. The fact that we were able to wake up this morning is a miracle. The fact that the sun rose this morning in the east, even though Science will tell us that this is a natural fact due to the disposition of the planets, that too is a miracle. All of creation, and all that lies therein, is a miracle. Can you doubt it?

So, how do we respond to the miracle that is the world and the universe? The key word here is gratefulness. We say it during the mass, in the Preface before the Eucharistic prayer. That's when we recount the manifold blessings that God has showered upon us. This prayer of gratefulness disposes us to live our lives as an acknowledgement of our creatureliness, of the sheer contingency of who we are, that we are here and alive; for the fact remains that we might NOT be here at all!

Let me play Devil's Advocate for a moment: what about all those things in our lives and in the history of the world that don't seem to be fit objects for our gratefulness? I'm talking about disease; I'm talking about violence; I'm talking about political chaos; when you face it, I'm talking about death. Should we be grateful for these things as well? We might be tempted to say that this very contingency, the very if-ness or if-hood, or if-ity, of our life is more a bad bargain than a blessing.

When I'm talking about gratefulness, I am not suggesting that we put on rose-colored glasses, that we pretend the broken condition of the world is not really broken at all. That approach is called lying. I AM saying that our faith bespeaks a total dependence on God. We believe in the goodness of God, in the face of all the evil and all the chaos around us. We have an alternative horizon than the one at the edge of our vision, and this horizon of ours, which acknowledges the miracle of our being here in the first place, is every bit as real as the one we can see with our eyes.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA