



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Phone: 201-567-0450  
Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://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

### **Sunday Collection: \$677.**

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Sept. 11	10:00	Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
	12:00	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Mon. Sept. 12	9:30	Matthew Elliott+	
	11:45	Gary Mioli+	Helen & Jerry Keegan
Tue. Sept. 13	9:30	James O’Shea+	Christina Colgan
	11:45	Emilio Alcazaren Sr.+	Family
Wed. Sept. 14	9:30	Augustine Elliott+	
	11:45	Happy Birthday Christopher G. Neill (Liv.)	
Thurs. Sept. 15	9:30	Derek Widdowson+	Christina Colgan
	11:45	Connie Gabriel+	Richard & Lydia
Fri. Sept. 16	9:30	Thomas Matthew Elliott+	
	11:45	James M. Curley+	Mary Ann Harte
Sat. Sept. 17	9:30	James McGoldrick+	Friend
	11:45	Felix Labay+	Mary Ann Harte

## Today’s Readings:

### ***First Reading Exodus 32:7-11. 13-14***

*When the Israelites returned to the worship of idols, God showed mercy to them.*

### ***Second Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17***

*Paul was the arch-persecutor of Christians, yet God was endlessly patient with him.*

### ***Gospel Luke 15:1-32***

*The parable of the prodigal son assures us that mercy will be shown to every sinner who turns back to God.*

## 24 th Sunday Ordinary Reflection

We have to try very often at times to divest ourselves of our 5th Grade religious imagination. In spite of the fact that we have grown up in many ways, our image of the Almighty is precisely that—almighty frightening. Somewhere in the back of our heads is the voice of Sister or our mother telling us that if we step out of line, God is going to get us and no mistake. And no matter how many times someone tells us that God does indeed love us, we reserve the right to harbor some doubts on the subject.

Well, the Gospel passage from Luke, which we heard today, is yet another attempt to get the point across; i.e. that God is a loving God, ready to bless us at a moment's notice. Take a good look at the three vignettes that we have, one right after the other. First, we have the shepherd who has lost one sheep out of one hundred. What does he do? He goes looking for the one sheep and trusts to God to protect the ninety-nine. And when he finds the one sheep, he rejoices.

Second, we have the picture of the woman who loses one coin. No idea where it could have gotten to! Does this sound familiar? She sweeps the house, and when she finds it, she rejoices and calls in her neighbors to share her good fortune. (In Luke, there is often a balance in his stories between men and women.)

And finally, we have the story of the Prodigal Son, or as we should perhaps entitle it—the story of the forgiving Father. He loses his son; make no mistake about that fact. The son goes off to a far-off country and goes to rack and ruin. He at least has the good sense to head for home, ready to face the wrath of his father in preference to starving to death. And when the son returns home, his father rejoices.

Can we graft on to our religious imagination the picture of the God who is constantly in search of us? Not to punish us but rather to clasp us to his bosom in much the same way that the forgiving father embraces his son. Perhaps the hardest part of this image to fathom is the idea of a God on the move. OUR image of God is far too static. If you've ever read the book by C S Lewis, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe", the picture of Aslan the lion captures this idea of a dynamic God. Can we rid ourselves, once and for all, of the stay-at-home God, or perhaps I should say the stay-in-heaven God in favor of Emmanuel, God with us, God with us on our journey, God with us in our trials, and a rejoicing God with us in our joys?

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA



### MEMORIAL DONATION

The Altar Bread and Wine this week is donated by Michael Murphy in memory  
Annie Murphy.