



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

Sunday Collection: \$1,360.

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 4	10:00	Reinhard Tietjen+	Family
	12:00	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Mon. Sept. 5	9:30	Douglas Edward Elliott+	
	11:45	Margaren & Paddy Murphy+	Michael Murphy
Tue. Sept. 6	9:30	Thomas and Jessica Lee (liv.)	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family
	11:45	Susan & John MacKay +	Friend
Wed. Sept. 7	9:30	Catherine Elliott+	
	11:45	Madeline Halley+ & Maureen Tropea+	Sue Murphy
Thurs. Sept. 8	9:30	Damiana T. & Gregory Maglikian+	Luz M. DiMacali
	11:45	Arsenia Feliz Padaloy+ Members of Andaya Family	Linda Rubio
Fri. Sept. 9	9:30	Ellen Elliott+	
	11:45	Tim Joyce+	Michael Murphy
Sat. Sept. 10	9:30	Joseph Choi+	Sung Choi Family & Mariana Cho
	11:45	Antonio S. Fernandez (liv.)	Sister

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

Human reasoning is unsure, but Wisdom, the light of the Holy Spirit, teaches us what pleases God.

Second Reading Philemon 9-10. 12-17

St Paul speaks about Onesimus, a runaway slave whom he converted to Christianity; he asks his master to take him back not as a slave any more but as a “dear brother”.

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

Jesus commends a radical life without possessions and human ties, providing we weigh up the costs.

23rd Sunday Ordinary Reflection

Take a moment, and look at the themes in this week's Gospel: "cost of discipleship" and "pick up your cross." Obviously, they're related somehow. Even though the cross itself is very specific as an image to guide our reflection on what the cost of discipleship might mean, the fact of the matter is that the phrase "cost of discipleship" is itself very open-ended. Maybe just a little too open-ended! What could the phrase possibly mean for our own lives as lived day by day? ... It no doubt means different things in the lives of different people.

Right from the outset, we're going to rule out of court the idea that the cost of discipleship means that you have to look for some way to suffer. There are people in the world who think that way. Well, there's enough trouble in the world that we don't have to go out looking for it. It will generally find us all by itself. ... The challenge of this passage is different: it asks us where our loyalty lies, to whom do we owe allegiance?

The Gospel of Luke gives us some pointers here. The reading we heard today is the capstone on a series of related passages in the Gospel. Go back to your Bible, Luke Chapter 14, and take a look at them! First, we have the man with dropsy. The Pharisees were aghast that Jesus cured him on the Sabbath. Jesus, in his turn, was aghast that they were using such an excuse to refrain from doing good.

Subsequently, we have the episode of the banquet at the Pharisee's house and the jockeying for positions of honor at the table. I can hear the excuses of the guests saying, "Of course, that's what I'm going to do. I'm scrambling! How else do you expect me to get ahead?" . I don't know what we want to call this—selfishness at the expense of others, or trampling on anyone who gets in my way. I incline to the second characterization.

Doing the right thing, or humbling yourself in order to assist those around you, these are but two illustrations of what the cost of discipleship might mean. I'm sure each of us can come up with further examples. Now, the cost of discipleship MIGHT very well literally mean the cross. Such a cost would be very dramatic, but just remember that this is the end of the story, because you're dead. ... The examples that Jesus gives of counting the cost, whether it be for a wall around a vineyard or a king facing an invading force, signal crises in day-to-day living. And let's face it—the challenge of our life is to live it in the here and now, confronting the puzzles that give us pause on one hand, and paying attention to those areas in our lives that may slip by us unawares on the other, and perhaps daring to ask ourselves to whom we owe allegiance.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA