



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

9:30 am & 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: \$1,271

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JANUARY 15, 2023 – JANUARY 21, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 15	10:00	Giorgio Busceti+	Abbadessa Family
	12:00	Special Intentions of the Quinn Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. Jan. 16	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Quinn & Feeney Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Tue. Jan. 17	9:30	Rosa Fernandez (Living)	Friend
	11:45	Margaret Doonan+ & Kathleen McDermott+	Susan Doonan Murphy
Wed. Jan. 18	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Jan. 19	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
Fri. Jan. 20	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Timothy J. O’Connell+	O’Connell Family
Sat. Jan. 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Carmela & Steven Coppolino+	Angela and Roger

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 49:3.5-6

With God, failure is often a prelude to a greater success. Failing with Israel, the mission of Isaiah becomes a mission to the world.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

For St Paul, the only true nation is the nation of those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel John 1:29-34

John was born to reveal Jesus to Israel. We are to reveal him to the world.

SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION

One of the puzzles about the Gospel reading today is why did John the Baptizer say he didn't know Jesus before Jesus came to be baptized in the Jordan River? I don't think this is something we should worry our heads about this for more than a moment, but I was nevertheless struck by his statement that he didn't know him; i.e. he didn't recognize him. He sounds a little bit like the people in the parable of the sheep and the goats. You remember that parable? They tell God that if they had recognized him in the poor and the hungry, well, of course, they would have given him something to eat.

It's difficult to recognize God at work. We're told in the first reading that the prophet is God's servant, and even though he is only a servant, God's glory will shine forth through him. It's a paradox really: where is God's glory to be found? In palaces and seats of government? Not according to John the Baptizer. If you want to see God's glory, then you find it in the servants the lowly, the humble, the people who shun the limelight but get the job done.

It all comes down to this concept of the servant. The servant may be the person cooking the food, clearing the table, and washing the dishes, or the servant may be the person at the head of a large institution; it may be the person, who exhibits in the way he or she carries out his duties, that he is exercising servant leadership. And maybe that's in a small business or village council, or maybe it's a giant corporation or a national government. Servant leadership, as a model of being a leader, is appropriate at all levels. I make this point, because this concept of servant, leadership runs counter in many ways to how we are schooled to think that a business or a governing body should work.

What's interesting about servant leadership is that it's not a blueprint. I mean to say that there is not only one way or road to being a servant leader. There are many. What is called for here is imagination, vision, the ability to articulate what is best for everyone, the ability to reflect on our communal/corporate life, and in doing so to put aside our own narrow self-interests in favor of the community, where everyone is living together—not as separate little chess pieces in the box, each one separate from the next, but as chess pieces that all form part of and participate in one game.

The best example both of servant leadership and community is found of course in the Body of Christ. Christ the servant head and we the servants.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

SAVE THE DATE: HOLY HOUR - January 27, 2023 at 8pm