



# 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

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: \$1,237**

**Christmas: \$7,956**

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

#### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of JANUARY 8, 2023 – JANUARY 14, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Jan. 8	10:00	Antonio Busceti+	Abbadessa Family
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Acosta
Mon. Jan. 9	9:30	Memory of Joseph Choi and Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Aideen O’Sullivan+	Brita Walsh
Tue. Jan. 10	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Rosa Iacullo+	Susan A. Iacullo
Wed. Jan. 11	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Betty Begley+	Brita Walsh
Thurs. Jan. 12	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Fe Tolentino+	Frayda Ascrate
Fri. Jan. 13	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Richard Deblock (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
Sat. Jan. 14	9:30	Benedict & Antony Walsh	Brita Walsh
	11:45	Br. Jobia PRA (Special Intention)	Victoria Costa

### Today’s Readings:

**First Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6 The glory of the Lord draws all creation towards him in joy.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 The Lord makes God’s covenantal relationship open to all the nations.

**Gospel** Matthew 2:1-12 The magi journey to visit the newborn Christ.

**NOTICE: HOLY HOUR - January 27, 2023 8pm**

## **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY Reflection**

Light is one of the principal metaphors for God and for Jesus; and yet, each time in the Christmas season, when we are tempted to drift into nostalgia for Christmases past, to sink into teary-eyed sentimentality in the light of the Christmas tree, the scriptures for the season bring us up short. We're forced to think about the darkness. We're forced to think about the context in which the Christmas story takes place. We find ourselves in Judea, with a puppet king named Herod, who is looking out for his own back. His position is precarious, because he isn't even a Jew, and he is subservient to his Roman masters. That kind of insecurity breeds darkness.

But there's more than one kind of darkness. Our image of the three magi arriving in Bethlehem takes place in the nighttime. For us, it is a holy darkness, an intimate darkness, a quiet darkness. ... But in that darkness, we see light. As the prologue of John's Gospel tells us, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." That sentence has the sound of victory in it, a suggestion of vindication, a clear assertion that everything is going to come out right in the end.

Two of the themes associated with the feast of the Epiphany begin to make sense when we think about the light in the darkness. The first theme is the call to universal holiness. The magi are there representing us gentiles; in fact, they're representing every nation on earth. There are no walls, no fortresses keeping people out of the kingdom of God. In God's house, there is only one long table for the messianic banquet. This is what we, as the Church, proclaim in the midst of the darkness of the war in the Ukraine, of the travails of the COVID pandemic, of the uncertainty of a faltering worldwide economy. The magi following the light to Bethlehem is a countersign to the darkness that divides us.

Another theme of the Epiphany is that of gift. The angels tell us that a son is given to us. The magi come bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Everything we have in our life is "gift" and not of our own making. However, the problem with "gift" is we human beings always tend to attach a price tag to it. If the gift is useful in a monetary sense, then it's a good gift.

I have found, in the context of disability studies, that this tendency is problematic. Why? Because we place little value on the lives and experiences of people with disabilities. They are deemed a drain on the collective wealth of a society, because they need to be housed and fed. Society can become Scrooge-like, thinking (if not actually saying) that they are part of the surplus population. The failure to appreciate the gifts of all people is part of the darkness that the light surges forth to scatter. Do not let the three magi pass by unnoticed.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA