



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

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
9:00am –5:00pm

Sunday Collection: \$795

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 26, 2023 – MARCH 4, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 26	10:00	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	12:00	Remedios Sumbilla+ Rodolfo Sumbilla Sr. & Jr.+	Lucy Sumbilla-Lipuma
Mon. Feb. 27	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	Charlotte Desrochers
	11:45	Mary E. Martins (Liv.)	Sister
Tue. Feb. 28	9:30	Special Intentions of Rosanne Ambulo	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. March 1	9:30	Special Intentions of Rosanne Ambulo	
	11:45	Corazon & Ernesto Bolos (Good Health)	Guinto Family
Thurs. March 2	9:30	Irene Freda+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Angela Alonso Colon+	Colon Family
Fri. March 3	9:30	Peter Quinn+ (15 th Anniversary)	Mary Quinn & Family
	11:45	Ann Kurpiel+ Bill Portmann+	Michelle Supper
Sat. March 4	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend

Today's Readings:

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Adam and Eve yield to temptation in the garden of Eden.

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

Jesus' gift of divine life more than outweighs the loss suffered by Adam when he fell.

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus sees off Satan in the wilderness and shows us how to walk in the path of life.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.- There will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel
each Friday during Lent at 7:00pm

First Lent 2023 Reflection

SHAME THE DEVIL

Human beings are under a misapprehension: for some reason, we think that we know ourselves through and through. We assume they know our own minds and our own feelings. ... I think, for the most part, we're mistaken; in fact, I think we're very lucky if we know even a little about ourselves. What to do?

One of the tasks of scripture is to hold up a kind of mirror, a mirror that we're invited to look into and see ourselves, recognizing in it something about our own basic reality. Who are we? What are we like? How can we find the real us? And where are we going?

The second chapter from Genesis--you know, the one about Adam, Eve, the snake, and the apple--is a humdinger! When we see ourselves reflected in this story, it's clear that we have literally been led down the garden path by the snake. We humans are tempted to aspire to greatness. We want to be just as good as that other character--God. It's not a pretty picture. According to this story, we're small, mean, shallow individuals. If one thing is clear at the end of the story: we blow it! We had it all, and we blew it!

Well, we've found out the hard way! At the end of the story, Adam and Eve see they are naked, and if this first reading is a true picture of who we are, then we are too.

Unfortunately, we've been hiding from the truth ever since. We think we know reality, but we're ready to remake reality in our own image. We think of ourselves as strong-willed, but we're ready to be tempted and deceived at the drop of a hat.

The Gospel passage from Matthew holds up another mirror for us to look into. Christ is also an image of ourselves. He also is tempted, but he knows the score. He isn't deceived or fooled by the devil's wiles. For us, it may be hard to understand the give and take between Jesus and Satan, but Jesus knows that you and I are more than bread-eating creatures. He knows that the thirst for power is to be handled carefully, and is, in most cases, a trap. He knows that there are no utopias in this world of ours, that if we are to make things better in this world of ours, we have to put our shoulders to the wheel.

If Adam is the old man, the old image in which we see ourselves, then Christ is the new man who holds up a mirror of who we might become. We would no longer be small, mean, grasping, mercenary creatures, but rather people in whom Christ's light shines. We too meet temptations along the road, and like Christ, we can shame the devil.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

LENTEN REFLECTION.— There will be short Lenten reflections on the Saturdays during Lent at 11:15am before the 11:45am Mass.