



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: \$1,307

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 12, 2023 – FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb. 12	10:00	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Arthur Flynn+	Family
Mon. Feb. 13	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Dolly & Theresa Molley+	Family
Tue. Feb. 14	9:30	Jack Sheehey+	Eileen McCarthy
	11:45	Catherine Doonan+ Moseley & Gerard Doonan	Susan Doonan Murphy
Wed. Feb. 15	9:30	Edison Garcia (Liv.)	Fe Vela
	11:45	William Maher+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Feb. 16	9:30	Anthony D’Jamoos+	Fe Vela
	11:45	Cursillo of St Joseph Parish and Volunteers (Liv.)	Juliahna Park
Fri. Feb. 17	9:30	Diane Crowell+	Martha DiPaolo
	11:45	Francis Mathus+	Family
Sat. Feb. 18	9:30	Rita Indavino+	Fe Vela
	11:45	John Hamill+	Daughter

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
We are given the choice of life or death.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
The gift of the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37
Our virtue must go deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION

The idea of Law runs through the readings for this Sunday. I hope you noticed that. ... Honestly, I am uneasy talking about Law, and the reason is that the meaning of the word changes, depending on the context. Sometimes we mean an “edict” handed down by a ruling body; sometimes we mean the unvarying or regular changes in this universe of ours (natural laws), and sometimes we mean “wisdom”, ideas by which we live our lives.

Where do the readings take us? The reading from Sirach and the reading from the Gospel of Matthew deal with the nitty-gritty of the Jewish Law, specifically the commandments in the Law of Moses. ... But for me, it’s Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians that proves to be of greater interest today. Why? Because after reading it, we’re going to wax mystical. That’s right, mystical. It’s the mystical side of the Law that Paul wants to bring out in his letter.

Remember that the word mystery in Christian talk describes something about God, the God whose totality is beyond our ability to know, but nevertheless, in whom we are invited to participate. As Christians, we PARTICIPATE in the reality of the life of God, especially the life of God as Trinity. That’s the point of the sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, and especially Eucharist. Although we can say that we receive Grace when we receive the sacraments, the truth of the matter is that we enter into God’s grace, God’s life, God’s reality. This mystical participation is what we sometimes call the Divine Encounter.

Go back to Paul’s letter. The apostle tells us that the wisdom he speaks of is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age. God’s wisdom is mysterious, hidden, predetermined by God before all ages for his glory. ... The Law of God, the wisdom of God, the guidance God gives so that we can live together harmoniously in this world of ours, is something to be meditated upon, reflected on, teased out in all its complexity. Yes, Law too is part of the Divine Encounter I spoke of. We are always seeking to know God’s law, a law that, unlike human law, has neither arbitrariness nor guile in it.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus re-interprets the Law, pushes it to its logical conclusion. How come? He has reflected on the Law, trying to bring it into conformity with God’s wisdom. You or I may shy away from taking such a bold step, but the truth of the matter is that we too have to reflect on God’s Law in all the various ways that it can be applied to the complexity of our lives and of our world. It’s not always easy. But when we reflect, WE try to enter into that Divine Encounter and make clear exactly what the mystery of God would have us do.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

Condolences.- Our deepest condolences go out to Christopher Freda at the passing of his mother, Irene Freda. Irene was a longtime friend of the SMA Fathers, and for many years she decorated our chapel at Christmas Season.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Christopher and may the soul of Irene Rest in Peace.