



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: \$990

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
 House Superior

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses for the week of MARCH 26, 2023 – APRIL 1, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 26	10:00	Carmen Lipuma+ & Chris Lipuma Sr. & Jr.	Lucy Sumbilla-Lipuma
	12:00	Fr John Robinson+	Friend
Mon. March 27	9:30	Thomas and Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Fr. Tom Hamill+	Sister
Tue. March 28	9:30	Healing Imelda M. Leon (Liv.)	Cristina Regas
	11:45	Stefania Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
Wed. March 29	9:30	Rosanne Ambulo Special Intentions	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Thurs. March 30	9:30	Happy Birthday Lauren Forgrave	
	11:45	Lydia Choi (Living)	Juliahna Park
Fri. March 31	9:30	Sung So Hong+	Anna Lee
	11:45	Rose Peltier (BD)+ Joyce Supper+	Michelle Supper
Sat. April 1	9:30	Faye Raye Jackson+ & Joanne Grossi+	Caron
	11:45	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

Through the prophet, the Lord speaks to the community in exile: “I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.”

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

Paul focuses on how God’s Spirit lives in us.

Gospel John 11:1-45

The extraordinary account of the final sign that Jesus gave – the raising of Lazarus from death itself.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT REFLECTION

How shall we interpret the raising of Lazarus for the understanding of our own lives? On what shall we pin our hope? I think the most direct key lies in the notion of a “sign,” as this idea is used in John’s Gospel. Now you know, most folks, when they look at the various accounts of inexplicable events in Jesus’s life—turning water into wine, healing people from blindness or deafness, cleansing lepers, raising people from the dead—they explain these as miracles, things that occur apparently in violation of the rules of nature. Well, they are that!

But that’s not what a sign is. In John’s Gospel, a sign is always understood as a sign of the kingdom of God, which is bursting into our reality. Signs in this sense have to do with the human condition: people are born; they eat to keep themselves alive; they get married and have children; and eventually their bodies fail, and they die. Not only that, but people lose their loved ones. Witness the deep sorrow of Martha and Mary. That’s when a sign happens. In contrast, the word “miracle” is used far more liberally: if a million dollars appears in my checking account, it may be a miracle, but it’s not a sign. Signs have to do with food, with health, with human beings, with being alive. They express hope for change and the future.

In the last couple of weeks, we have seen two signs. The first was the woman at the well. In spite of a life full of betrayal and challenges, she comes to conversion. If you think that turning water into wine or healing people from incurable illnesses is a miracle, a person coming to conversion, arriving at a point in his life when, all of a sudden, he or she sees the truth and resolves to change direction, that really is a greater miracle, because human beings don’t like to change. We’re stuck in our habits. We’re stuck in our addictions. We’re stuck in our pride.

Funny thing about the kingdom of God: it bursts into our reality with the birth of Jesus and his ministry. But it’s not here yet in its completeness. Even the death of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection, the crowning event in God’s plan of salvation for us, doesn’t usher in the kingdom in its entirety. If it did, we wouldn’t have to be here on a Sunday morning, telling each other stories of Jesus, in order to remind ourselves of what we have pinned our hope on. We are still awaiting the kingdom in its fullness.

What shall we tell the Elect about this story, those adults undergoing the Third Scrutiny today in parish churches, in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil? If Lazarus is a sign, he is a sign of hope in the present and of things to come, of things to be made complete in the future. Don’t knock hope! It may seem intangible, but we believe that through it the Good News can turn our lives around in the present. And as for the future, we say in the Creed that we believe in the resurrection of the body. Yes, we believe in a new heaven and a new earth. What shall we tell the Elect? Live your life as a sign of God’s present activity in your life, because great things are on the way.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

LENTEN REFLECTION.- Saturdays during Lent at 11:15am before the 11:45am Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.- Fridays during Lent at 7:00pm

SYMPATHY.- It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dianne Sweeney. She died March 17, 2023. Dianne was a long time supporter, member of SMA Guild and friend of the Mission. We extend our deepest sympathies to her sons Edward and Sean and their families. May She Rest in Peace.

