



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: \$1159

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
 House Superior

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 12	10:00	Virginia Malik+	Abbadessa Family
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. March 13	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Martin Cooley+	Michael Murphy
Tue. March 14	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	Charlotte Desrochers
	11:45	Matilde Foti+	Angela and Roger Gussoni
Wed. March 15	9:30	Rose Baranko+	Caron
	11:45	Mary Sozio+	Susan Iacullo
Thurs. March 16	9:30	Happy Birthday Karen Forgrave (Liv.)	
	11:45	Rosalba Vasquez+	Family
Fri. March 17	9:30	Fr. Eamon Treanor+	Friend
	11:45	Happy St. Patrick's Day	Mary Quinn and Family
Sat. March 18	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	Charlotte Desrochers
	11:45	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa

Today's Readings: *First Reading Exodus 17:3-7*

The book of Exodus tells the story of God's unfailing desire to be in relationship with us. However unfaithful we may be, however many false idols we may turn to in our search for security, God will never fail us and always holds to the covenant promises.

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that through God's grace they have a reliable hope that cannot be disappointed. This is not cheap and easy grace, but the power, through Christ, to live differently and to trust in his promises.

Gospel John 4:5-42

The story of the woman of Samaria is rich with resonance. Jesus comes to meet this woman where she is. He listens to her questions and her struggles with faith, trust and hope. He invites her to change her perception of God and by doing so changes her experience of herself.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT REFLECTION

The woman at the well is an enigmatic figure. She's a very open-ended figure, and perhaps even a cardboard figure. We think we know something about her background by the simple fact that she has had five husbands, and we think we know something about the end of the story, because Jesus is able to let her see her own life clearly, without lying about it and without pretending it is otherwise. We think she's on the right path.

Well, we don't really know her backstory at all. How did she get there? What pain and what trauma did she go through? What betrayals and surprises lay on her path? As for what happened next, we really know nothing; in fact, HER story is quickly swept aside when the other villagers come to find Jesus at the well and inform him that they no longer had to believe on HER account. Now they can place their faith in Jesus on their own account. So, what happened next?

Now you may wonder why I'm making this story so complicated. Can't I leave well enough alone? Well, the reason is that our lives are not cardboard. We've had pain and trauma and betrayals and surprises of our own. We have had what Frank Bruni, the New York Times columnist, calls fissures, cracks that threaten to tear us apart, and oftentimes, in spite of all our attempts, we can't close the cracks up. Like all the other figures in John's Gospel—the man born blind, Lazarus, the woman caught in adultery--she stands in for the rest of us.

I suppose what is important is that she is on the right path and pointed in the right direction. There is no indication in the story that she left her current protector or left the village. Her financial situation might have gotten worse. She is just as vulnerable as she was before. There are undoubtedly forks in the road, where she will have to make a decision, but one thing is certain, she is determined to keep moving forward.

My brothers and sisters, when we engage ourselves on the road of conversion, in a real sense, we haven't left the material world behind us, this world with all its social and economic constraints. And we are just as vulnerable as we were before. When we set our foot on the path of change, we may very well have an image of where we would like to end up, but the truth is that our road is one with an unknown destination. Repenting of the road we have taken thus far is an act of faith in the idea that we just might be able to change our lives, and it is as well an act of faith in the unknown destination we are headed for. And when we reach a fork in the road, we keep moving.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

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

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

**Remember! - Daylight Saving Time.— March 12, 2023, 2:00am
Clock moves an hour ahead.**