



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: \$993

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the week of APRIL 30, 2023 – MAY 6, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 30	10:00	Dominic Francisco+	Cezar & Martina Francisco
	12:00	Wilson Padaloy+ & Rudy Tong+	
Mon. May 1	9:30	Maureen Hamill+	Sister
	11:45	JoAnn DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Tue. May 2	9:30	Anne Marie Maguire+	Breda Walsh
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente-Lawler+	John Lawler
Wed. May 3	9:30	Vincent Egan+	Breda Walsh
	11:45	Bill Moran	Jinnie Moran
Thurs. May 4	9:30	Linda Johnson (Liv.)	
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Fri. May 5	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	James E. Cronin+	O'Connell Family
Sat. May 6	9:30	Special Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	
	11:45	Diane Crowell+	Martha DiPaolo

Today's Readings:

First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41

A call to repentance, and a radical new way of thinking and behaving. Peter declares that the Holy Spirit is promised to all whom God calls.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

Peter calls us to turn back “to the shepherd and guardian of our souls”. We are called to do what is right, even if it means suffering.

Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus is the shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold, guarding and protecting the sheep.

Fourth Sunday of Easter Reflection

The sheep we're talking about in today's Gospel are a metaphor, ... They're not real sheep, and as such, you'd better be careful about what you mean when you use the metaphor, and about what you don't mean. The fact is, none of us likes being called sheep, because to do so betokens a distinct lack of intelligence and an inability to think for oneself. That's the common image of what a sheep is. No, the metaphor in the Gospel points us in a different direction: it tries to paint a picture of caring for someone, taking responsibility for someone, and all this without USING people for one's own agenda. That's how we use the sheep image in the Bible.

The Gospel talks about recognizing the voice of the shepherd. Interesting picture! In a world that is split among warring factions, as in Sudan, in a country that is riven by culture wars, in a Church that is polarized by divergent opinions, how does one recognize the voice of Jesus? Be on your guard here: recognizing Jesus's voice means more than just gravitating to whoever is proclaiming something that sounds good to you, that makes you feel comfortable. Recognizing the voice of Jesus is not about comfort.

Hearing the voice of the shepherd in today's world means paying attention to Scripture—thinking with it, reflecting on it, engaging in the kind of interaction with God's Word the way the monks did with the practice of *Lectio Divina*.

Recognizing the voice of the Shepherd today also means paying attention to the words and actions of our liturgical life. If the adage "*lex orandi, lex credendi*" (the words of our prayers are the language of our belief) is true, then the very words we pray here in church become an invitation to meditate on them. They weren't chosen at random! They afford us an opportunity to let them sink into our hearts, AND they issue a challenge for us to give them concrete meaning in our lives. If we don't make the language we pray our own, then we're operating chartless in a tumultuous sea.

Finally, recognizing the voice of the Shepherd means paying attention to the signs of the times. Why? Because God is always at work in our midst. This phrase, the signs of the times, lays itself open to many interpretations: the phrase can mean heeding prophetic voices, but it can also mean paying attention to the ways that this world of ours has fallen short of the love and the mercy of God. ... I might add, it means paying attention to the new and improved ways that this world of our falls short of God's love and mercy.

None of what I have outlined above describes something passive—Jesus's voice impinging on an empty mind. No, recognizing the voice of the shepherd always carries within itself the idea that we are brought to life by God's Word, we are engaged in a conversation with the Shepherd, and we are goaded into action by his Spirit.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

DONATION.- The flowers on the altar this week are donated by Maria Cutro in thanksgiving for prayers answered.

