



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: \$1318

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 EASTER

Masses for the week of MAY 7, 2023 – MAY 13, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. May 7	10:00	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa	Victoria Costa
Mon. May 8	9:30	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Rae Elani Ponce de Leon (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
Tue. May 9	9:30	Avelino Quilling & Rosario Aquino+	
	11:45	Virgie Mayo & Leo Sunga+	
Wed. May 10	9:30	In Memory of the Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Peter & Tommy Murphy+	Michael Murphy
Thurs. May 11	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Marissa Tomboc+	Josie Martinez
Fri. May 12	9:30	Reverend Raymond C Plourde+	
	11:45	Johanna & Ilka Ponce de Leon (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
Sat. May 13	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Kayla Rubio & Logan Rourke (Liv.)	

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

Trusting in the Holy Spirit, the Church grows in number.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

Christ is the cornerstone of our faith.

Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus tells his disciples not to be troubled. He will show us the way.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER REFLECTION

When all is said and done, what's all this talk in the Gospel of John about the Way? What's all this talk about seeing the Father? These are today's questions. This passage takes place immediately after Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, and it's his farewell speech. The disciples are distraught because Jesus is leaving them. They want to know where Jesus is going, and he gives one of his enigmatic answers. "You guys already know where I'm going!" ... I can hear the apostles muttering under their breath, "Oh Jesus! Come off it! Just tell us in words of one syllable."

How shall we unpack this Gospel passage? I want you to notice a couple of things here: they've just finished a meal, food blessed and eaten together, and they're on their way to a mansion with many rooms. In addition to being about God's journey, this conversation is about God's hospitality. It's about God's welcoming us; it's about our arriving home. Don't skip over these details about our coming together to eat, because they unlock the meaning of what God is like.

In light of the Gospel, the Way of Jesus is best described as a banquet. ... OK, it's a metaphor, but it's a metaphor that helps us find our place in this world of ours. This is a feast where everybody has a seat, where there is enough food for all, where nobody is fighting over where he sits in relation to his neighbor, where the food is not a soup kitchen hand-out but a gift freely given, where hospitality is the watchword of the day. Jesus tells us so in the Gospel, for he is going ahead to prepare a place for us. This truly is what God is like.

We in the Church express our living out of this banquet in the sacrament of the breaking of the bread. We meet together, telling each other stories about Jesus, sitting down together at the table, and partaking of the one bread and the one cup. The Eucharist is our primary expression of the paradox of the Paschal Mystery, for this entire discussion takes place on the eve of the Via Dolorosa, Jesus going to the cross. It's a hint of what God is like, with the sorrow of the world as a backdrop.

As a Eucharistic people, can we live out the Way of Jesus in our own lives, even beyond the church doors? Can we embody the banquet in this world of ours? ... It's not as straightforward as it sounds. Even the early disciples, as we saw in the first reading from Acts, ran into trouble when things got real. When they distributed food to the widows, the Greek-speaking widows complained that the Aramaic-speaking ones were getting more than their fair share. ... Well, can we do better? Figuring out how to live the messianic banquet in our lives requires careful listening to the stories we tell about God here in church, and it requires us to pay close attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It challenges us to move out of our comfort zone and engage our feet on the Way.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA