



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: \$1,127

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Masses for the week of MAY 28, 2023 – JUNE 3, 2023

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested by: |
|---------------|-------|--|----------------|
| Sun.-Sat. | 8:00 | Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA | |
| Sun. May 28 | 10:00 | Clifford Tavares+ | Breda Walsh |
| | 12:00 | Young Kim+ & Eva del Rosario+ | |
| Mon. May 29 | 9:30 | Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+ | |
| | 11:45 | Maria R. Valdes+ | Friend |
| Tue. May 30 | 9:30 | Michael R. Desrochers+ | |
| | 11:45 | Nita Ponce de Leon (Liv.) | Rossana Ambulo |
| Wed. May 31 | 9:30 | Cresencia Martinez+ | Josie Martinez |
| | 11:45 | David Wall+ | Mae Kenny |
| Thurs. June 1 | 9:30 | Michael R. Desrochers+ | |
| | 11:45 | Liv. & Dec. Members of the Desrochers Family | |
| Fri. June 2 | 9:30 | Felix Labay+ | Family |
| | 11:45 | John & Annie Hamill+ | Daughter |
| Sat. June 3 | 9:30 | Special Intentions Neil & Forgrave Families | |
| | 11:45 | Souls in Purgatory | |

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

The Holy Spirit is poured out on the disciples of Jesus. This is the final act in the Easter mystery, which is now complete.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

The apostle Paul reflects on the gifts of the Spirit in the lives of believers and encourages us to play our part, whatever that may be, in building up the life of our community.

Gospel John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus makes himself present to his disciples and commissions them to carry on his work.



Pentecost Sunday Reflection

On this, our feast of Pentecost, to what image should we direct our attention? The disciples in the upper room? The crowds on the street? Using the reading from the Acts of the Apostles as our point of departure, I want you to imagine the disciples as they unlock the doors of their hiding place and rush into the streets. Where is the Holy Spirit leading them? To what purpose?

My questions are part of the larger question, how can we talk about the Holy Spirit responsibly? The Spirit hasn't come upon us to make us fall down in ecstasy. Getting happy in the Spirit wasn't the point. In the account that we heard from Acts, the first thing the disciples did was to go out into the streets and start spreading the Good News. ... The consequence of the Holy Spirit coming as tongues of fire was the proclamation of the Gospel and the issuing of the invitation to become disciples of Christ. And that endeavor is what each of us is engaged in by virtue of the one baptism we have received.

So far, so good! However, one of the principal questions we have to ask ourselves is, do we REALLY have Good News for folks, so good that it can change people's lives? I mean REALLY! Mine is not a heretical question, or a doubting question; rather, my question is born out of the experience of trying to convey the wonders of God to people who, quite frankly, are rather skeptical about God's existence in the first place, not to mention any good works he might have done. Do we have something to tell people, those people who have seen their lives turned upside down, their bodies betray them, and their dreams and their hopes crumble? Easy words won't do it.

If we are going to become heralds of Good News, then we've got to know our Christian story. I mean, if you want to get people into the Church, then you've got to get your story straight, starting from the beginning of creation through the Father's raising Jesus from the dead. ... Why? Because God's story is the framework we're asking people to imagine themselves a part of.

There's an emphasis on Pentecost on words, on language, on narrative or story. Did you notice that? Pentecost is like the Tower of Babel reversed. On the streets of Jerusalem, no longer will the Holy Spirit brook interference. The Good News is capable of crossing the valleys arising from differences of language, race, social class, even creeds and belief systems. We believe that the Good News is persuasive by itself, provided we don't get in the way with our lack of imagination.

Where shall we focus our attention on this, our feast of Pentecost? Perhaps on our attentiveness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps on our willingness to see as the Spirit sees, to listen as the Spirit listens, to think as the Spirit thinks.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA