



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: \$1,120

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of MAY 21, 2023 – MAY 27, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. May 21	10:00	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana & Joseph Family
	12:00	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Mon. May 22	9:30	Reverend Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Barry Kersner+	Victoria Costa
Tue. May 23	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Henryk Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
Wed. May 24	9:30	Renario Bontuyan+	Family
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. May 25	9:30	Joan Johnson+	Linda, William & Thomas
	11:45	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa
Fri. May 26	9:30	Lorraine & Rose Logerfo	Caron
	11:45	Jim Kurpiel+ Ann Peltier Broaddus+ Birthdays	Michelle Supper
Sat. May 27	9:30	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Soul of Francis D’Souza	

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

Luke, the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, depicts Jesus’ ascension into heaven.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

Paul tells us that, as a result of the Easter mystery, Christ is now the supreme power in the universe.

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew gives his account of the final appearance of Jesus to the eleven apostles in Galilee. Jesus gives them instruction about their mission and a promise of his continued presence among them.



ASCENSION OF THE LORD reflection

It's the feast of the Ascension! The image before our eyes today is that of the Lord Jesus ascending to the Father, BUT, and pay attention here: the Gospel passage that we heard today really focuses on the Great Commission; i.e. it relates to the task, the invitation, the challenge, to go out into the wide world and make disciples of all people. And so, that's the direction we're going in today.

You know it's one thing to come to church on Sunday and take in, more or less consciously, all the stories we tell about Jesus and the marvels that God has done for us. It's QUITE another thing to try to tell folks around us exactly why we bother to show up week after week. The Great Commission forces us to be articulate about our faith. We've got to know what we're talking about. Last week in the Letter of Peter, we heard, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Well, easier said than done! Giving an account of one's faith journey involves more than repeating verbatim the words of the Creed. The words of the Creed are the end of the faith journey and not its point of departure. When we engage in evangelization, we listen to people tell their stories, and then we try to reframe those stories with language that will make sense to them. It's a question of finding language for the faith we are inviting them into, language that is able to convince folks by its very persuasiveness.

Where do we go for this language? In this day and age, I wouldn't go to the language of our own emotional experience with the Lord. One reason for my saying this is that it's hard even for us to find adequate words to describe how we feel. It's going to be that much harder for the person we're talking to, to capture the very texture of what seems obvious to us. I'm picking on this kind of emotional appeal because it forms the backbone of a lot of preaching that we hear on TV.

Instead, I would go to the challenge of ethics, of knowing what to do in various situations, AND how we justify our decision. In everyday life, people face times that they don't know how to move forward. Sometimes folks just throw up their hands and say, "I don't know." We can all sympathize with their dilemmas. The decision becomes easier if they have a framework to work with, a story beginning with God's creation of the Universe and culminating in God's raising Jesus from the dead. Once that story is offered as an alternative to the myths about our lives that pass for Wisdom in our society, then life and our decisions begin to make sense. And that's when we can call it Good News.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA