



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: \$947

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JULY 16, 2023 – JULY 22, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 16	10:00	Jack & Gret Molloy+	Angela Hickey
	12:00	Special Intentions of the Quinn Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. July 17	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
Tue. July 18	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Michael R. Desrochers+	
Wed. July 19	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Tim Joyce+ (Anniversary)	Michael Murphy
Thurs. July 20	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Florencio Doctora+ Zaire Contreras+	
Fri. July 21	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Sat. July 22	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Mary Pauline Ramos+ Placido Aquino+	

Today’s Readings:

First Reading *Isaiah 55:10-11*

The word of the Lord is like rain falling on the earth, enabling it to bear fruit.

Second Reading *Romans 8:18-23*

Humanity, like creation, is waiting for God to set it free.

Gospel *Matthew 13:1-23*

People are like the places where seeds fall – their faith will determine whether there is a harvest of God’s riches.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

The expectation of things not seen, the hope for realities not yet present, that idea is what stitches together the readings that we have this morning. This is very obvious in both the reading from Isaiah and the Gospel from Matthew: they talk about the Word of God as seed, something you plant in the ground, and it yields flowers, grain, and vegetables. Again and again in the Gospels, Jesus uses the image of the tiny seed to suggest the growth and development of God's Word in a world where you would least expect to see it flourish, or maybe we should say in a world gone mad.

Keep that in mind while we look at the way that Jesus taught the crowds; i.e. he taught them in parables. Parables are very open-ended stories that are supposed to tease our imaginations. This section of Matthew's Gospel uses parables to tell us what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus is saying, "Try to imagine what the kingdom of heaven would look like, even though it doesn't look anything like it right now." And then comes the punch line: "Now, try to make it real in your lives."

That injunction is more easily said than accomplished! If we imagine a world where everyone has what he or she needs to live life in dignity AND in mutual love and respect, we sometimes find ourselves resenting what another person has, and we become fearful that someone else just might be getting more than his fair share of God's Providence. Maybe, just maybe, we're like the soil with thorns, or the soil with rocks, or the soil with no depth.

How do we overcome the resistance within ourselves to the thrust of the parable? Well, you've got to take time—time to reflect, time to let the words of the Scriptures sink into our consciousness, time to shut up and tune our ears to hear God speaking. And then we have to be able to see how OUR lives can be seeds for the future.

God broadcasts his seed everywhere, even in places that a farmer would tell you it's a waste of time and good seed. Very impractical, the farmer would say! In spite of this profligate sowing of the seed, God states unequivocally that his Word does not return to him empty.

If God has such confidence in his Word, if God has such confidence in US and in the way we live our lives, then we should go forward with the hope of realities not yet present—peace in the world, an earth restored to health, a level playing field in business, an end to weapons of mass destruction, an acknowledgement that the resources of the world belong to God and should be shared out fairly among all God's children. Do we have faith in the power of God's Word?

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA