



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Phone: 201-567-0450  
Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://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: \$867

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.



### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **Masses for the week of JULY 9, 2023 – JULY 15, 2023**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. July 9	10:00	Jacob E. Mendez Vargas (Liv.)	Mother
	12:00	Ethel and Elaine Cortez (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
Mon. July 10	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Jeanette Clemente (Liv.)	Family
Tue. July 11	9:30	Jacob E. Mendez Vargas (Liv.)	Mother
	11:45	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
Wed. July 12	9:30	Jacob E. Mendez Vargas (Liv.)	Mother
	11:45	Alec Smith+	Mae Kenny
Thurs. July 13	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Repose of the soul of Ramon Dandrade+	
Fri. July 14	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Alberto Antonio Moreno+	
Sat. July 15	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Carmela & Giuseppi Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro

### **Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading** Zechariah 9:9-10

*The prophet visualises the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem and being presented to the crowds as their king – a humble king, seated on a donkey.*

**Second Reading** Romans 8:9. 11-13

*Paul reminds the early Christians in Rome that God has filled them with the life-giving Spirit of Jesus.*

**Gospel** Matthew 11:25-30

*Throughout Matthew’s Gospel Jesus teaches us that we show that we are true followers of his not so much by our words as by our deeds.*

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

The readings today are about identity—Jesus’ and our own. Who is this Jesus that everyone keeps talking about? Who are we when we have made ourselves his disciples? The Old Testament reading from Zechariah is one way to talk about it. In Zechariah we hear about ‘the coming of the King.’ That’s part of Jesus’ identity. He is a descendant of David who will sit upon his throne. The Gospel reading adds to this by portraying Jesus as the Son of God, to whom everything on earth and in the heavens has been revealed.

But our reflection on identity doesn’t stop there. It can’t stop there! We have to say more. We have to ask more questions. We have to plumb the depths of the readings. The Zechariah reading shows us a king who has rejected the violence of war as a solution to his country’s problems. The text says, “He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The warrior’s bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.” For the ancient Near East, just as for our own day, the rejection of violence was revolutionary and radical. It’s not how things were done, or how they ARE done for that matter.

The language of the readings is mystical and poetic, but it's important for us people who live in the real world to take all these identity images out of the realm of poetry and render them in terse, cold, clinical prose. Poetry may inspire us, and that is necessary. We need to be inspired! But prose, well, we need prose to pay the bills, to negotiate our way in the messy, uncomfortable squabbles of our lives. We need prose to make peace in the world.

As Christians, and particularly as Catholic Christians, we need to be peacemakers. Like Jesus, we need to reject the lure of violence as a way to do business and to conduct ourselves. Thinking analytically now, we have to take steps to put our rejection of violence into concrete actions. In making peace, we need to be as terse, cold, and clinical as our prose. There is an art to doing so—part inspiration and part practicality—working within the constraints of the real world.

Like Jesus, we have to be people of humility. Remember that the root of the word “humility” has to do with “humous”, the soil. People who are humble are people who are close to the soil that we walk upon and that sustains us with food. They are down to earth. We can wax poetic about the earth, but in the end, we still have to go out and till the fields. Just so, we can wax poetic about making peace, but in the end, we still have to go out to the crossroads and seek viable ways to achieve peace, usually but not always, by working to address the underlying issues; in other words, this can only happen if we work for justice.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**THANK YOU.-** We had a great time at our 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ. Thank you for the goodies and everything you did to make this event enjoyable. We all enjoyed your company!