



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: \$1,385

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,

Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,

House Superior

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JULY 30, 2023 – AUGUST 5, 2023

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested by: |
|------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| Sun.-Sat. | 8:00 | Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA | |
| Sun. July 30 | 10:00 | Robert Doonan+ | Susan Doonan-Murphy |
| | 12:00 | Caiden Carter Rubio & Emma Uy (Liv.) | |
| Mon. July 31 | 9:30 | Liv. & Dec. Members of the Desrochers Family | |
| | 11:45 | Alfonso & Eduardo Moreno+ | |
| Tue. Aug. 1 | 9:30 | Liv. & Dec. Members of the Paradis Family | |
| | 11:45 | Luci & Beth Guinto (Living—Good Health) | Guinto Family |
| Wed. Aug. 2 | 9:30 | Special Intentions Rosanne Ambulo (Liv.) | |
| | 11:45 | Sr. Christine (Liv.) | Juliahna Park |
| Thurs. Aug. 3 | 9:30 | Joseph Lee (Birthday) (Liv.) | Juliana and Joseph Family |
| | 11:45 | Thanksgiving Rosanne Ambulo (liv.) | |
| Fri. Aug. 4 | 9:30 | Eileen Walsh (Liv.) | Mae Kenny & Family |
| | 11:45 | Supper Family+ Joseph Kurpiel Sr. + | Michelle Supper |
| Sat. Aug. 5 | 9:30 | Joseph Tolentino (Liv.) | Erly Cortez |
| | 11:45 | Victoria Ann Costa (Special Intention) | Victoria Costa |

Today’s Readings:

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12

Wisdom is a gift to be sought after.

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30

We are chosen to be “true images” of Christ.

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus’ parables give a picture of the true nature of the kingdom of heaven.



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

At the end of the Gospel passage, Jesus asks his disciples, “Do you understand everything I have been telling you?” He’s asking more than whether they have understood the literal meaning of his words. Much more! I think when we look at the Gospel passage and the first reading from the first book of Kings (You remember Solomon?), Jesus is looking for something much deeper: a deeper meaning, a deeper experience, a deeper living.

Well, what is Jesus looking for? In my book, he is looking for an act of RECOGNITION—an “aha” moment” if you will. You know what I mean by an “aha” moment? That split second in time when suddenly we look at something we have seen many times before, and somehow we see it in a new light. Without our knowing how, everything starts to come together, to make sense. We recognize value; we recognize the truth; we recognize ... the hand of God.

That’s the point of the parable of the treasure hidden in the field, which the finder purchases, after selling all that he has. It’s the point of the parable of the pearl beyond price, which the merchant seeks out and buys. These are short stories about the kingdom of heaven, as Matthew puts it. These are stories about seekers after value, truth, and the ability to trust in God. These are stories about the human condition. These are stories about us, for we are seekers after all those things.

The parables are an invitation to look back at our lives and to try and pinpoint a moment when things came together. ... I’m not saying it’s one instance; it may well be a series of instances, which when they happened, may not have seemed connected, but in the 20-20 vision of hindsight, they form a pattern.

When I say that things come together and make sense, I’m talking about the answers to questions such as “Why am I here?” “What am I doing here?” “Am I supposed to be here?” “Does this life of mine have any meaning?” Deep, philosophical questions, all of them, about the nature of the universe and our place in it! ... They are reflective questions as well, and that fact may scare us, since most of the time we don’t act reflectively at all.

We have to take the time to figure out, to articulate, to recognize, what the treasure hidden in the field is for us, what the pearl beyond price is for us, and then act accordingly. Act accordingly in our family life, in our work life, in our social life, in our political life—the questions I’ve outlined above pertain to every facet of our lived experience. The questions are about us in the deepest fathoms of who we are and who we want to be.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA