



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: \$1,015

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,

Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,

House Superior

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JULY 23, 2023 – JULY 29, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 23	10:00	Joann Allen+	Jason Allen
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa	Victoria Costa
Mon. July 24	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Joann Allen+	Jason Allen
Tue. July 25	9:30	Mary Laird+	
	11:45	Ralph Iacullo+	Susan Iacullo
Wed. July 26	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. July 27	9:30	Josefina Morales Mendez+	Family
	11:45	Repose of the Soul of Patricia Alaura Pacho+	Josie Martinez
Fri. July 28	9:30	Silveria Ascrate+	
	11:45	Neil B. Labay -Birthday- Living	Family
Sat. July 29	9:30	Enrico & Anny Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend

Today’s Readings:

First Reading *Wisdom 12:13. 16-19*

God, who is all-powerful, shows strength in gentle judgement.

Second Reading *Romans 8:26-27*

God understands our weakness and the Spirit expresses our yearning.

Gospel *Matthew 13:24-43*

The world, God’s field of wheat, is invaded with darnel weed. Let it grow till harvest time.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

The mystery writer Nevada Barr—she’s the one with the Park Ranger detective Anna Pigeon who finds corpses all over our national parks—well, after a career in many different parks, Nevada got married and moved to the southeastern United States and experienced severe culture shock. She just wasn’t prepared. She would keep having conversations with folks who proceeded to tell her that they were waiting to hear what the Spirit (Holy Spirit to us) said, or they would tell her that the Spirit had instructed her to do such and such. At the beginning, it made Nevada nervous, to think that there were so many possessed people in her neighborhood, listening to disembodied voices.

Well, it would make me nervous too. I like to think that I’m talking with rational people, making decisions in a rational manner. ... Perhaps, it shouldn’t make me nervous. I think it’s a good thing for us to calm down and listen to the Holy Spirit. I don’t think I’d drop her name into casual conversation; in fact, I’m not sure I would mention her at all. I don’t want my friends to think I’m possessed.

I’m talking about the Holy Spirit because of the passage we heard today from Paul’s Letter to the Romans. “Brothers and sisters, the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought.” Yes, sometimes we find life so confusing that we don’t know if we’re coming or going. We have to stop and ask ourselves what we can hold onto in the swirling events of our lives. We don’t really know what to pray for, and we end up saying, “Thy will be done.”, because it’s all too much for me to figure out.

What I’m talking about is not spirit possession. What I’m talking about is the attention we pay to the God-given Spirit dwelling within us, the spark of divinity that we receive at our baptism. That spark that transforms our bodies into temples of the Holy Spirit.

Paying attention to the Spirit is not a game of charades. It’s serious business. One doesn’t play around with what the Holy Spirit says by engaging in proof texting; rather, paying close attention to the Spirit means finding a new center, a new way of organizing around you your world and your values.

If in the end you get lost, if you continue to see life “through a glass darkly”, as St. Paul says, it doesn’t matter. The Spirit is there in the turmoil of your life. The Spirit is there when you are comatose in the ICU at the hospital. The Spirit continues to pray with us and through us, and when words fail, the Spirit picks up the slack.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

MEMORIAL DONATIONS.-

This week, the Sanctuary Candles, Altar Candles, Altar Bread and Wine and Flowers are donated by Jason R. Allen in memory of Joann Allen.

