



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: \$845

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of AUGUST 13, 2023 – AUGUST 19, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 13	10:00	Clifford Tavares+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Joan Cohen+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Aug. 14	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters
Tue. Aug. 15	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Susan Cogut Mancad+ & Aida Zoleta+	
Wed. Aug. 16	9:30	Angela McCabe (Liv.)	Sister
	11:45	Special Intentions of the Quinn Family	Mary Quinn
Thurs. Aug. 17	9:30	Special Intentions Rosanne Ambulo (liv.)	
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ & Jimmy Virtucio+	
Fri. Aug. 18	9:30	Peps Fanjul (Liv.)	
	11:45	Agnes David (Liv.) Spec. Int. for Healing	Rosanne Ambulo
Sat. Aug. 19	9:30	Evangelista Jaquez+	Family
	11:45	In Thanksgiving Rosanne Ambulo (Liv.)	

Today’s Readings:

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9. 11-13

God was not in the great wind, the earthquake or the fire, which were the traditional manifestations of God’s presence, but in the silence.

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

Paul’s concern is that his Jewish brothers and sisters should learn to accept Jesus and his teachings.

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus calls to his disciples in the midst of the wild and restless sea. When they see him walk on the water they acknowledge that he is the Son of God.



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Let's talk about Paul ,, and Paul's Letter to the Romans. "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh." Paul is distraught, because his own people, the Israelites, have refused to accept his testimony.

There's something in that one sentence that caught my eye. There's something that struck me as an echo of many conversations I have had with people. You might be surprised, but I think not, at the number of people who have come to me bemoaning the fact that their brothers and sisters, or their sons and daughters, have decided to leave the Church. Sometimes these wayward sheep think they've found something better in another faith community. Sometimes they've just lost interest in the foundational questions of our lives. They only want to get on with their lives. (Pope Francis talks about this condition as being anesthetized by modern life!)

If they're grown-ups, you can't very well tell them to shape up or ship out. In most cases, they shipped out long ago. You could, I suppose, cut them out of your will, but that would be missing the point. How do you reach out to somebody, with whom you are very close, and spark an interest IN the foundational questions of our lives? How do you get folks to slow down and consider the horizon?

My first answer is that you have to LISTEN to them, to their own struggles to make ends meet, to their own challenges to remain healthy, to their own fears of not being able to keep their head above water. Just as we saw with Peter today! These people have something to tell us about how God has worked in their lives. They have something to say about the myriad ways that we can go off the railroad track, especially when we didn't know we were taking the train to begin with.

And then, keep your eye out for a teachable moment. That split second in time when people are forced to take stock, when they find themselves bewildered by life. I'm not suggesting that you prepare yourself to teach. A teachable moment is not a moment to rush in with the answers. Nobody likes a smart-aleck who thinks he or she has the answer to everything. A teachable moment is one filled with God's grace, so that the human person, in his integrity, finds himself open to the Good News. With those we love, we have to be patient and get them to reach their own conclusions, because that is the foundation of a solid faith.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA