



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: \$1,097

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of AUGUST 6, 2023 – AUGUST 12, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 6	10:00	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Felix Labay & Dorothea Ferrer	
Mon. Aug. 7	9:30	Albert & Helen Fleckenstein+	
	11:45	Fr. Ignatius Lissner, SMA+	
Tue. Aug. 8	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	Vic. Suresca+ & Leny Reyes+	
Wed. Aug. 9	9:30	Susan Mancad & Marissa Tombac	
	11:45	Salvatore Liguori+	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Aug. 10	9:30	Jimmy Neary+	
	11:45	Special Intentions Rosanne Ambulo (Liv.)	
Fri. Aug. 11	9:30	Special Intentions John Tietjen (Liv.)	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Special Intentions Rosanne Ambulo (Liv.)	
Sat. Aug. 12	9:30	Denis & Atana Hickey+	Angela Hickey
	11:45	Mattie Murphy+	Michael Murphy

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

The sovereignty of Christ is the sovereignty of humanity over death.

Second Reading 2 Peter 1:16-19

The world seems dark, because we are called to a greater light.

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

That Christ is the beloved Son of the Father is the most fundamental truth of all, and the key to the mysteries of our life.



18th Sunday Ordinary Time Reflection

In the Gospel passage we heard today, it looks like miracles are springing up left and right. First Jesus heals the sick and the lame who are brought to him, and then he blesses bread and fish, and there is enough to feed a crowd of five thousand men—not counting women or children.

But I want you to notice that these miracles have their feet planted firmly on the ground. What do I mean? Any time Jesus acts, ... his deeds have to do with the human condition. They have to do with the reality of the world we walk around on: people are born; they begin EATING right away; they grow up and marry; they have children; they become sick; and finally they die.

The miracle we see first in today's Gospel reading is about people being healed. They become whole persons again. The words "whole" and "health" have the same root. And then they have to EAT. Elizabeth Davis, the Old Testament scripture scholar, in commenting on the first chapters of the Book of Genesis, has pointed out that creatures are those entities that EAT. That's what makes us different, certainly from rocks. We eat in order to live. The miracle that Jesus performs, without seeming to do so, takes place at the most basic level of who we are as human beings.

I won't beat around the bush here: I'm making these comments so that we can enlarge our idea of what it means to celebrate the sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord here in church. What we saw in today's Gospel is a foreshadowing of what will happen at the Last Supper in the upper room. Now here's the clincher! The miracles that Jesus performed are NOT random violations of the laws of nature; rather, they are signs of the breaking in of God's reign.

In the last several weeks, Jesus has asked the crowds, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God?" Or, to put it another way, how shall we talk about God so that we can begin to understand him? ... Well, the kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl beyond price, like yeast, like a dragnet cast on the waters. And today we see that the kingdom of God is like healing when all hope has been lost. It's like food shared at the table—everyone can eat his fill; there are enough forks, knives, and spoons to go around, and as I said at my godfather's funeral two weeks ago, there's no little kids table at Thanksgiving. We're eating together!

Does it make a difference, how we talk about God? How we visualize God? How we paint the reign of God in our imagination? ... I think it does! If we are to imitate God in his actions, if we are to be holy as God is holy, then we have to work on performing our own miracles. Shocking idea! Our miracles may be on a much smaller scale, but if they are signs of the reign of God breaking in, they are no less important in making God's Kingdom present to human senses.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

GET WELL! The SMA Community is sending well wishes to John Tietjen. May he be blessed with good health and a quick recovery.