



# 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: \$1022

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

#### **Administration:**

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

**Fr Frank Wright,**  
House Superior

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of AUGUST 20, 2023 – AUGUST 26, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Aug. 20	10:00	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	12:00	Father Timothy Christy (Liv.)	Friend
Mon. Aug. 21	9:30	Rosanne Ambulo Special Intentions (Liv.)	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Tue. Aug. 22	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Ralph Iacullo+ (Birthday Intention)	Susan Iacullo
Wed. Aug. 23	9:30	Dominic Francisco+	Cezar & Martina Francisco
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Aug. 24	9:30	Pepe Fanjul+	
	11:45	Rosanne Ambulo Special Intentions (Liv.)	
Fri. Aug. 25	9:30	Asuncion A. Malveda+	Josie Martinez
	11:45	Rosanne Ambulo Special Intentions (Liv.)	
Sat. Aug. 26	9:30	Happy Birthday—Kim Neill (Liv.)	
	11:45	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa

### **Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading** *Isaiah 56:1. 6-7*

*The Lord will bring all peoples to his holy mountain.*

**Second Reading** *Romans 11:13-15. 29-32*

*God will show mercy to all humankind.*

**Gospel** *Matthew 15:21-28*

*Jesus responds to the great faith of a Canaanite woman.*



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

God has a very interesting way of talking to people. You know what I mean? We saw it this morning in the Gospel passage from Matthew: Jesus chooses to blow off the Canaanite woman by pretending that she doesn't even exist to talk to; ... and yet, she gets her own back. "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps from the table!" My goodness! What cheek! Imagine talking to Jesus that way! I ask you!

I think that's God talking, even to his Son. What's interesting is that Jesus listens. He changes his mind. He has his mind changed for him. ... What's going on here? Well, it's a re-vamping of his mission: if he was under the impression that he had been sent ONLY to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he knows different now: the scope of his mission has been cracked wide open. There are no longer limits of religion, race, or gender, or language, or cultural allegiance. Those who were treated like dogs before are now given a place at the table.

In the formation programs of the SMA, we have an expression, "Surprise, surprise!" You thought you were going to Africa to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Africans, and lo and behold, you find out soon enough that they already have it, AND you might end up raising chickens as YOUR actualization of the Good News. That's what Tom Mrosko did. He was one of our lay missionaries in Kenya. He went over thinking to use his social work skills. ... Well, on the missions, we are often blind-sided by both events and possibilities, and Jesus is always telling us, "Go with the flow."

Like Jesus, you and I may think that we have a solid, no-nonsense understanding of what our mission is. Just remember, sometimes God talks to us too. ... As an aside, I would caution you not to sit waiting for an e-mail out of the blue from heaven to tell you what your new mission is. If you get one, I will be very suspicious of you. PAY attention to what's going on around you. God is talking! Pay attention to the flow. God, in his humorous self may have a surprise waiting for you.

Your mission in life may need to be cut down to size. You may find you've bitten off more than you can chew, and some re-configuration is called for. Don't be afraid! On the other hand, maybe God is telling you that your vision is too small. Maybe, just maybe, you have some blind spots that prevent YOU from seeing all that God has in store for you.

Any real mission from God requires us to respond at our most basic, human level. Like Jesus, we may have to set aside the glasses with which we view the world. When we allow ourselves to meet our neighbors at the level of our heart, new vistas open up; new possibilities emerge; new missions come into focus.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

**SAVE THE DATE**

**HOLY HOUR AT THE MISSION**

**September 23, 2023 at 8pm**