



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: \$937

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Frank Wright,
House Superior

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of AUGUST 27, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 27	10:00	Annie Hamill+	Daughter
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Aug. 28	9:30	John Tolentino (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Peps Fanjul (Liv.)	
Tue. Aug. 29	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. Aug. 30	9:30	Pepe Fanjul+	
	11:45	Theresa Kim (Liv.)	Juliahna Park
Thurs. Aug. 31	9:30	Abby & Joseph Maikisch and Family	Ceci
	11:45	Christian C. Barrameda+	Josie Martinez
Fri. Sept. 1	9:30	Laura & Tony Canci and Family	Family
	11:45	Ann Peltier Broaddus+ Joseph Kurpiel Jr.+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Sept. 2	9:30	Thanksgiving Gina Ambulo (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
	11:45	Sheamus Feeney+ & Kevin Sherry+	Mary Quinn & Family

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

Should he open, no one shall close; should he close, no one shall open.

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

All that exists comes from the Lord.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

Peter says to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”



21st Week in Ordinary Time Reflection

The difficulty with this Gospel passage is that EVERYONE'S attention immediately jumps to the end, to that point when Jesus announces that "You are Peter, and upon this rock I shall build my Church." It's a nice ending, but don't lose the beginning: Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" By beginning at the beginning, we have a full recognition scene. We are invited, along with the disciples, to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, or the Christ, the anointed one, the Son of the Living God.

I don't think we should jump over Peter's personal declaration of faith. It's important. We shouldn't jump over it, because the Church Fathers, over the last two thousand years, have been trying to flesh out the idea that Jesus is the Son of God the Father. And after twenty centuries of reflection, WE are able to place our trust in the ever-present God of three persons.

But I want to go back to that word "living." That word in the Scriptures is trying to capture the DYNAMISM of God, the action or activity of God, the constant moving about by God in creation and in our lives. ... We're building on a solid foundation here, for does the Old Testament not talk about Yahweh, or in English, "I am who will be"; in fact, this personal name in Hebrew is a verb form and not the name of some entity in the world.

All through the Old Testament, all the prophets called on this God of pure action to assist the Jewish people in their troubles. That's what Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea all did. That's whom the Psalms call upon. "Yahweh is my shepherd; I shall not want." Whereas most translations of the Bible substitute the word "Lord" for the personal name of God, one contemporary Jewish scholar, Nahum Ward-Levy, translates the name Yahweh as "the living presence." PETER captures this idea when he recognizes Jesus as the Son of the Living God. And it is because of this act of recognition that Jesus turns to him and declares Peter to be the rock.

This Gospel passage is often used as a proof text, a text with which to confound our separated brethren. (Take that you Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians!) But the fact of the matter is that NOTHING is proved if WE don't recognize the God we worship as the living God. Nothing is proved if we don't have a relationship with this dynamic God of ours, person to person, little living presence (us) with total living presence (God.)

In our lives, we should be having a series of our own recognition scenes. We should be part of the recognition process for those around us: when they see us and listen to us and interact with us. In our lives, they should be able to sense the living presence of God, in however imperfect a form.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

HOLY HOUR AT THE MISSION

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 8pm