



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: \$1,390

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 3	10:00	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	12:00	Eric Sarnar (Liv.) Happy Birthday	Victoria Costa
Mon. Sept. 4	9:30	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Sean McCabe+	Sister-in-Law
Tue. Sept. 5	9:30	Caron Chiusano & Lorraine Logerfo	Ceci
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Wed. Sept. 6	9:30	Evangelista Jaquez+	Family
	11:45	Anthony Calabrese+	Friend
Thurs. Sept. 7	9:30	Rose Logerfo and Family	Ceci
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
Fri. Sept. 8	9:30	Gina Luppino (Special Intentions)	Self
	11:45	Ana Tumang+ & Sally Rivera+	
Sat. Sept. 9	9:30	Alan Miel+	Sister
	11:45	Antonio S. Fernandez (Liv.)	Sister

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

Despite the hardships of his calling, Jeremiah allows himself to be seduced by God.

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

Paul encourages the Christians of Rome to model their lives on Christ.

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

The paradox of the cross: this is the way to life.



22nd Week in Ordinary Time Reflection

People can get really upset when they find out what God is really like! Jeremiah sure did. (“You duped me!”) Jesus himself had a few sharp words for Peter, when our first Pope tried to lead him down the garden path. (Get thee behind me, Satan! Whoa!) Yes, the same Peter, who only last week Jesus designated as the rock, on which he would build his Church.

The experience of finding out what God is REALLY like is by no means restricted to Jeremiah and Peter. If we take the time to reflect on Scripture and on the actual words of the liturgy, their reaction can often be our own. Reflecting on the sources of our faith tradition can hold many surprises—pleasant and unpleasant. I say “unpleasant”, because oftentimes we find ourselves challenged. We don’t like it! We build an image of God in our heads, and then we find out that the image just doesn’t ring true to Scripture OR the words we pray in the liturgy. We are tempted to say, “Lord, can you stay still for just one second while I’m building an image of who you are.” To which the Lord says, “No.”

We’ve got to be very careful about how we build up an image of God. The real danger is that after a while God begins to look like us. He has our prejudices; he spouts our political beliefs; he doesn’t like the same people we don’t like. We have TAMED him. Instead of ourselves being made in the image and likeness of God, we find that we fashion a God in the image and likeness of ourselves.

Thomas Aquinas, the medieval philosopher whom I’m always dragging, sometimes unwillingly, into my homilies dealt with this problem. He said that any time we make a statement about God, it is always analogously—just a fancy word to say God is LIKE THIS. A word to the wise is sufficient: we should stop short of trying to say that we KNOW the mind of God in its entirety. God’s full mystery is always beyond us.

Peter sure had the wrong idea. He lacked the imagination and foresight to see where Jesus’s ministry was leading him. Peter’s was a vision of victory, of kingship even, not realizing that the only way to victory was through the cross on Calvary. ... You want to know something? We too may baulk at the bottom of the hill of Calvary. It is in the emptying of ourselves, in all our dimensions—personal, physical, spiritual, political, economic, emotional, etc.—that we can finally grasp what the cross of Christ might mean for us.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

HOLY HOUR AT THE MISSION

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 8pm

We wish you all a happy and safe Labor Day!