



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: \$1,080

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 24	10:00	Caterina Modafferi+	Abbadessa Family
	12:00	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Mon. Sept. 25	9:30	Jonas Tolentino+	Frayda Ascrate
	11:45	Dom & Marcelo Tavorming (Liv.) Good Health	Guinto Family
Tue. Sept. 26	9:30	Felix Labay+	Family
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Wed. Sept. 27	9:30	Alberto Rodriguez+	Family
	11:45	Victoria Costa—Special Intention	Gina
Thurs. Sept. 28	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Paul DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Fri. Sept. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Arcenia Padaloy+ & Dr. Louis Bertolotti+	
Sat. Sept. 30	9:30	Fr John Guiney, SMA	
	11:45	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

God is nearby and can be found.

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Christ is in our living and dying, present to us beyond the grave and for all eternity.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

The landowner practised positive discrimination towards the latecomers and less able workers.

Special Book Signing:

Monday Evening, October 16th, 8pm

Join Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA

as he gives a presentation on his recent publication:

I am the Virgin Mother of God: And your Mother too

At the Knights of Columbus St. John’s Council Hall

64 Armor Place, Dumont NJ

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Is today's reading about the money? Is it about the money? The laborers in the vineyard certainly thought so. ... Is the reading about fairness in employment? ... Yes, but only in a negative sense; i.e. what you and I hope for when we die can't be measured in any terms that we would understand, so there's not much point in trying to measure heaven at all. ... Since the landowner has ignored the conventions of the marketplace, maybe the parable we heard isn't about the wages at all. Well then, what is the parable about? Where should we fix our eyes?

I'm going to suggest that the parable is about the work in the VINEYARD as much as it is about anything else. It's no accident that the parable is set in a vineyard. In the Old Testament the vineyard is often the place where God works. The harvest stands in for the people of Israel. At the same time, the image of the grapes for the prophets conjures up the taste of the wine, the sweetness of raisins, the deep hues of purple and burgundy, the conviviality of sitting around a table with family and friends. In brief, a vineyard is at the nerve center of how Israel understood itself as chosen by God.

How do we fit into this parable? In what sense can we imagine ourselves as the workers in the vineyard? ... And before jumping to the conclusion that I'm talking about Church work, let me point out that God's work is not confined to what the priest does, or what the religious sisters do, or what the catechist does. God's work encompasses EVERYTHING we do, for do we not say that we collaborate in the building up of the kingdom of God. Everything we do is for the glory of God. That's why we revel in the image of being the Body of Christ.

Household cleaning is God's work. Cooking is God's work. Business is God's work. Teaching is God's work. Health care is God's work. Labor at McDonald's and Wendy's is God's work. Picking up the garbage is God's work. You see, the Catholic take on the work we do views everything we do as done for the glory of God. That's why we justifiably take pride in how we work. In Catholic terms we talk about the dignity of labor and the need to combat the dehumanization of people in their workplace.

As Catholics, we also talk about vocation. God calls us to work. The nature of this work may change over time. The venue of this work may change over time. Our self-understanding of who we are through the work we do may change over time. The call may come early or late, at 6 AM or the midnight hour, but the call will come nevertheless. Shall we pick grapes?

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA