



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: \$858

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 17	10:00	James McGoldrick+	
	12:00	Gerald McTowan+	McCabe Family
Mon. Sept. 18	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Marianna	Anna Lee
	11:45	Emma Reinhard+	Tietjen Family
Tue. Sept. 19	9:30	Rowena Refol (Liv.)	Josie Martinez
	11:45	The LoCasto+	Susan Iacullo
Wed. Sept. 20	9:30	Susan McKay+	
	11:45	Alec Smith+	Kathleen & Rob Jaeger
Thurs. Sept. 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Steven Coppolino+	Angela and Roger Gussoni
Fri. Sept. 22	9:30	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	11:45	John and Dimitra Park (Liv.)	Juliahna Park
Sat. Sept. 23	9:30	Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Fr. Noel Morales+ & Fr. Noel Gomez+	

Today's Readings:

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others.

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone who wrongs him. Jesus replies, “Not seven, but ... seventy-seven times”.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Peter's question in today's Gospel reading is not an idle one. How many times must I forgive my brothers? Most of us would like to know how long we have to put up with our brothers. Jesus's answer to us is simple, "Stop counting." Forgiveness is not something that can be counted, and if truth be told, it's not something that can even be measured. There's no thirty or forty percent forgiveness.

But you want to know something? Folks don't normally ask me Peter's question. Their question is usually, "How do I KNOW if I have truly forgiven someone, from the bottom of my heart? If I still feel resentment, can I say that I've forgiven someone? If I don't feel that our relationship can go back to the way it was before, can I still say I've forgiven him?" ("Once bitten, twice shy.")

I think the answers to those questions have to be given in practical, nuts and bolts terms. Why do I say this? Take a look at the parable that Jesus uses to drive home his point. The king forgives his servant a large sum—very practical here, very dollars and cents. We're not talking about hurt feelings; we're talking about hard, cold cash. And when he hears that the servant has directly left his presence and put another person in jail for a smaller debt, the king loses it. The king asks, "How can you have failed to share with your brother the Good News of the wiping out of your debt?" We're still talking dollars and cents. ... Well, to get across the point I'm making: the bottom line for me is not how you feel but rather whether your ACTIONS have made clear your forgiveness of those who have harmed you.

The act of forgiveness raises the issue of trust, after you've been harmed. Trust may look like an emotional state, but in many cases, it has a great deal to do with dollars and cents, or it has to do with the amount of time we're willing to devote to the person who has harmed us, or it has to do with our willingness to give the other person the benefit of the doubt. These are the areas you want to look at if you wonder about the genuineness of your forgiveness.

Forgiveness has to do with the real, material world.

Proceed cautiously. Your relationship with the other person cannot return to the same footing that you enjoyed previously. You would be doing that other person no favors by pretending that nothing has changed. Forgiveness is not about denying reality. It's about repairing the relationships between flesh and blood human beings, created in the image and likeness of God. Act concretely when you forgive, and you will feel that your forgiveness is genuine.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

Next Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 8pm

HOLY HOUR AT THE MISSION