



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: \$1,330

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 10	10:00	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Madeline Halley+	Susan Doonan-Murphy
Mon. Sept. 11	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Tue. Sept. 12	9:30	Linda Bishop+ (70th Birthday)	Rick
	11:45	Gerarda Mauro+ Birthday Intention)	Susan Iacullo
Wed. Sept. 13	9:30	Carmelo Gonzalez+	Mely & Ben
	11:45	Fr. Steven Cooney+	Martha Paladino
Thurs. Sept. 14	9:30	Happy Birthday Christopher Neill (Liv.)	
	11:45	Connie Gabriel+	Richard & Lydia
Fri. Sept. 15	9:30	Justin Lamorena+	Family
	11:45	Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
Sat. Sept. 16	9:30	Carmela Abitante+	Ellen Flynn
	11:45	Robert Chiusano & Fr Stephen Dufrene S.F.R.	C.C.

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

We can save one another’s lives of faith.

Second Reading Romans: 13:8-10

Love is the answer to everything.

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus teaches us to try to resolve our differences, knowing that he is always among us.



23rd week in Ordinary Time Reflection

Take a good look at the Gospel reading. It's about Jesus's take on resolving disputes. How to come to some kind of agreement with your brother or sister, especially when you think they're wrong. And think about how this passage speaks to us today. ... The whole passage is very much on target with what's happening in the US Church and in the country these days. We're full of disputes. The cracks in the face of the Church and of the nation have become wide chasms that threaten us—people from all frequencies on the ideological spectrum. The gaps are ready to swallow all parties at one go, with one great gulp.

Both the first reading from Ezekiel and the Gospel passage raise the issue of our responsibility to and for one another, PARTICULARLY as regards disputes. Go back and read them again. Moreover, the second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans sums up what that responsibility is without beating around the bush: "Love one another, as I have loved you." Nothing could be simpler than that; yet by the same token, nothing could be more challenging in its complexity.

Don't breeze through Matthew's description. The various steps are NOT, I repeat, are not a series of telling somebody off, of pointing out what's wrong with the other person, no matter how much we're tempted to do so, but that's not what the Gospel is about. There is no silent conversation partner here. There is always room for the other person to reply or contest the accusation. ... And if the person being talked to is supposed to listen, well, then the person doing the talking to has an equal responsibility to shut up and listen. He may even learn something! Both in the Church and in the country, we haven't learned that lesson yet. We've got a long way to go before we model the kind of conflict resolution that Jesus had in mind.

Listening is an art. It requires attentiveness to what is being said, to the tone, the choice of words, attention to the hidden struggles that folks are going through. Listening demands of us an openness to someone else's experience. It calls for patience and a willingness to reflect. It takes time. And it's not easy. The fact is, if we are ready to listen attentively, to listen deeply, to listen with the benefit of the doubt in mind, to listen with both ears attuned to the human condition graced by God, then we too may learn something.

By Fr Frank Wright, SMA

HOLY HOUR AT THE MISSION

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 8pm