



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. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

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: \$1,070

Thank you for your support.
Please remember to support
your local parishes.



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
House Superior

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of OCTOBER 29, 2023 – NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 29	10:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	12:00	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa
Mon. Oct. 30	9:30	Rodrigo Bontuyan+	Family
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente-Lawler+	John Lawler
Tue. Oct. 31	9:30	Valli Mell+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Salvatore DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Wed. Nov. 1	9:30	Rosario Pino+ Enrico & Anny Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
	11:45	Mary Doris Baylon+ & Jet Allan Viheart+	
Thurs. Nov. 2	9:30	For all Salituro Family	The Salituro’s
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Fri. Nov. 3	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Marianna+	Anna Lee
	11:45	Stefania & Jan Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
Sat. Nov. 4	9:30	Spec. Intentions Neill & Forgrave Family	
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord will hear the cry of those who call out to him, for he is full of compassion.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

The people who broke with idolatry and converted to God now follow the risen Jesus.

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

The greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour.

Wednesday,
November 1st -
All Saints' Day
is a **holy day of obligation.**
Masses at 9:30am
and 11:45am

Mark your Calendars!

HOLY HOUR.- November 11, 2023 at 8:00pm

“Which is the greatest commandment?”

Illustration

Among the unexpected television hits of recent times have been baking competition shows. Who would have known that watching other people trying to produce delicious cakes or tasty pies would draw such large numbers of viewers? As the bakers try their best to impress the judges, they use plenty of imaginative flair. But that isn't enough. Cooking works if you abide by some basic rules too: you need to get the temperature right and you need to cook your bake for a certain amount of time. Too low or too high a temperature will spoil your cake. Keep it in the oven too long and it will go wrong too. The judges will complain that the cake has a soggy bottom or the pastry is rock hard. So the bakers can adapt recipes and bring their special skills and gifts to the competition, but there are basic rules that the judges want to see are not broken.

Gospel Teaching

Something similar is going on when we attempt to follow Jesus. We can find all sorts of different ways to live our lives as Christians, whether we are married or single, living in a lay community or in a religious house, whether we opt to work in a caring role, such as being a nurse or a teacher, or if we're in business or being an artist or a musician. But whatever we choose to do, and however we live, some things are fundamental: being a Christian is about loving and serving God and our neighbour. Reading the Gospels, it's clear that the Pharisees took inordinate pleasure in trying to catch Jesus out. They were forever asking him questions, disapproving when he cured people on the sabbath, and trying to spot him advocating breaking their laws.

The question that we heard today, asked in Matthew's Gospel, appears to be one of the most straightforward ones: which is the greatest commandment? Jesus' answer, to emphasise that the first commandment given to Moses is the greatest one, is swiftly followed by the commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. This is why the Christian life involves such focus on compassion and mercy: we are commanded by God to care for those who are vulnerable, such as those mentioned in today's reading from Exodus. But in focusing on others, we also need to be mindful of ourselves: the respect and dignity we afford others should be afforded to ourselves as well. The problem for many people today is not that they struggle to love others but that they lack self-esteem and self-worth. They do not consider themselves to be people that God loves.

Application

The Pharisees are rather like bakers who spend all their time focusing on the fine detail of a recipe. Rather than getting temperature and timing right, the cooks fret about the appearance and decoration mentioned in the recipe. Should the icing sugar be a particular brand? Does it matter if the silver and gold balls are replaced by silver ones only? Will the judges like it if I make a coffee-flavoured filling or should I stick to the traditional chocolate? It's minutiae and appearance that have taken over, rather than the essentials, just as has happened with the Pharisees. Elsewhere in the Gospels we read that the Pharisees were horrified when Jesus cured people's ailments on the sabbath, as the sabbath was supposed to be a day of rest and nothing, not even curing someone, should take place. They are so bound up in the small print that they fail to notice that in curing people, Jesus was attending to what were the leading priorities – loving God and one's neighbour.

If we become bogged down in what we might call the “small print” of our faith – when to fast, whether to cross ourselves, when to genuflect – we are at risk of overlooking the two greatest commandments of loving God and one's neighbour. And these two commandments are essential: Christianity is an active faith, involving following Jesus. We cannot just sit back in an armchair and observe the world. We have to participate in love, whether that is caring for vulnerable people, as described in the Exodus reading, or putting aside idols, as St Paul advised the Thessalonians, and truly converting to God, becoming God's servants in our love and service. Loving God and our neighbour are central to Christian beliefs and God's commandments because these give our lives true meaning: they are the purposes for which we were made.

Living the Word

Sympathy.- We extended hands of friendship to Veronica Y. Jackson whose beloved father Gene B. Jackson recently transitioned into Eternal Life.