



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Phone: 201-567-0450  
Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://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: \$1,197

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

#### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr James McConnell,**  
House Superior

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of OCTOBER 15, 2023 – OCTOBER 21, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Oct. 15	10:00	Mary Elizabeth Kennedy+	Gerard & Marie Nigro
	12:00	Carmelita & Almario Manlutac (Liv. Good Health)	Guinto Family
Mon. Oct. 16	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Rita Park (Liv.)	Juliahna Park
Tue. Oct. 17	9:30	Rev. Fr. Joachim M D’Mello+ Birthday Ann.	Anna Teelan
	11:45	Billy Hickey+	Family
Wed. Oct. 18	9:30	Michael Teelan+	Anna Teelan
	11:45	Victor Bontuyan+	Family
Thurs. Oct. 19	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Isolina & Anselmo Allaix+	Diane Colon
Fri. Oct. 20	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Maureen Portmann+ BD & Tom Peltier+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Oct. 21	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Birthday)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend

### **Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading** Isaiah 25:6-10

*The prophet shares his vision of a heavenly banquet to which all are invited.*

**Second Reading** Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

*The joys of heaven outweigh whatever hardships we may be suffering now.*

**Gospel** Matthew 22:1-14

*Not everyone chooses to accept God’s invitation; indeed, some are not yet ready.*

The book signing event of Fr Dermot Roache has been canceled. New date to be determined.

## ***“How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?”***

### ***Illustration***

*Cheering crowds have long lined the processional route of British royal weddings. Yet only a privileged elite are admitted into the ceremony. Such occasions are now televised worldwide. In 2011, an audience of thirty-six million people watched Prince William and Catherine Middleton exchange their wedding vows in a live broadcast from Westminster Abbey. Indeed, those watching at home enjoyed a better view than many who were there. Among the invited guests were plenty of titled people and heads of state. After all, Prince William was the late Queen’s grandson and second-in-line to the throne. But there were other celebrities, too, such as David Beckham and Elton John. Mingling with the glitterati were faces few recognised: the Middleton family butcher, for example, their grocer, and the village postman.*

*Surprisingly, some people turned the invitation down. For some, it was understandable. The Canadian Prime Minister was in the middle of an election campaign, and the King of Spain was recovering from surgery. Japan had just suffered a tsunami, so the Crown Prince could not go; and the Irish rugby union captain was due to play in an important cup semi-final the next day. One person, however, made the excuse that it was too near his birthday – perhaps he could not find the right outfit.*

### ***Gospel Teaching***

*Having “nothing to wear” was not always a problem. At the time of Jesus, it was customary for royal hosts to provide garments for their guests. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a king who did just that. As it happened, everyone he invited to his son’s wedding backed out at the last minute. They behaved violently towards the royal messengers who summoned them, which showed complete disrespect for the king. So the king abandoned his original guest list, and welcomed to the banquet only those who really wanted to be there.*

*Jesus told this parable at a politically volatile moment in Jewish history. The prophets had spoken of a Messiah who would one day come to establish God’s reign, and many believed that this day was fast approaching. Religious leaders were looking forward to their place at the princely table described by Isaiah in today’s first reading, laden with juicy food and rich wine. Yet when Jesus summoned these people to celebrate with him, most of them just sneered. By refusing to acknowledge Jesus as a messenger from God, they were insulting his heavenly Father. Jesus’ parable came as a solemn warning. If you are not willing to rejoice in my company, he was saying, then others will take your place. Notorious sinners were already to be seen eating and drinking with Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus was living in anticipation of that heaven on earth of which Isaiah spoke. Isaiah had described it as a banquet for all people. Jesus’ scandalous table fellowship was exactly that, and it gave a powerful message. Everyone is welcome to share Christ’s joy, both now and for eternity. What matters is how much you want it.*

Living the Word