



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: \$1,055

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of **OCTOBER 22, 2023 – OCTOBER 28, 2023**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 22	10:00	Anthony Pagliaro+ Birthday Intention	Susan Iacullo
	12:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Mon. Oct. 23	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Diane Colon (Birthday) (Liv.)	John Tietjen
Tue. Oct. 24	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Wed. Oct. 25	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Marianna +	Anna Lee
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Oct. 26	9:30	Jack & Gloria LaGreca+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Fri. Oct. 27	9:30	Edward LaGreca+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Gabriel Garcia+ and David Garcia+	
Sat. Oct. 28	9:30	Gabriel Garcia+ and David Garcia+	
	11:45	Angelo Bonnici+	Gina Luppino

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

We are all instruments of God, but not always willingly, so that we do not know the true meaning of our lives.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Sometimes we only appreciate the power of God’s word in the lives of others who receive it. This is why converts will always give hope to the Church.

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

Don’t be afraid of tough questions. Every question has an answer from God.

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

“A man’s rank means nothing to you.”

Illustration

One year ago, the Royal Mint was preparing to place the image of the new king of the United Kingdom, King Charles III, on the coinage of the realm. It is an old practice, but for the Jewish society of Jesus’ time it was a rather disturbing practice. Torah, the law of Israel, says that you should not make the image of any living thing. Yet in today’s Gospel the Pharisees are carrying coins with just such images. Christ asks them whose image the coins bear. Clearly they had to compromise, being under the rule of the Romans. Later rabbis made use of this fact. They remembered the creation account in the book of Genesis, where God made humankind in God’s own image. In this sense a human being was like a coin. We all bear the mark of the image of God. So we are signs of a greater reality; and by being signs, we are also instruments of God’s love.

Gospel Teaching

A coin has little or no value in itself. It may be made of precious metal but its value is in the use. In a way, a coin is a gift that you are not supposed to keep. You can give it away or exchange it for something more useful, but to hold on to it is to be a hoarder, which was the great sin of the dragons in Anglo-Saxon mythology who fiercely guarded their hoards of treasure. We commit a greater sin than that if it is not money we hold on to but our own selves. The key theme in this Gospel passage is the need to give. Human beings cannot be happy without a capacity to give something of themselves. Pope St John Paul II made that a key to his teaching: that we should learn how to make a sincere gift of ourselves.

The difference between giving to God and giving to Caesar is to do with freedom. We give to Caesar because we are compelled to, but also because we think that our gifts give us some share in earthly power. With God there is no compulsion. God freely created us and offers a share in God’s love, but we are never forced to take that gift. Likewise our gifts do not force God to love us. There is no need for that. God is love, and God’s love is unending. Still, we will lose sight of that love if we do not learn to give ourselves up to that love.

Application

King Cyrus of Persia, spoken of by Isaiah in today’s first reading, brought the Jews back to Israel. It was the role of Cyrus in restoring Israel that first showed the Jews that their God was the God of the whole world. Cyrus was the instrument of God, but he did not know that. We may not do the great things that Cyrus did, but the small things we do have more meaning than anything he did. That is because we know that our lives are shaped by God. Every encounter, every word we say, everything we do, is under God’s providence. We are all instruments of God’s purpose. This does not mean that we are free from sin, and it certainly does not mean that our sins do not matter. What it does mean is that if we see mercy, then our sin can add to the glory of God, by showing the limitless power of God’s mercy. If we refuse mercy then we become like Cyrus, unconscious instruments of God. We still serve God but unwillingly, and out of this can grow resentment and anger.

Unlike the coin that Christ held in his hand, there is no limit to the value that we can have in God’s eyes. The coin has a fixed value, but we are like a coin that God can use again and again. If we do it willingly, then we do it as God’s friends. That is the meaning of the virtue of charity, which is fundamentally friendship with God. Friends are happy to be of use to one another. This does not mean that we always know what God is doing with our lives. We might think that God has no use for us at all. Yet sometimes it is when we don’t seem to be doing much, feeling that we are just treading water, that God is most subtly effective. It is only looking back that we see how much God was doing through us.

Living the Word