



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: \$1,021

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



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
House Superior

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Masses for the week of NOVEMBER 26, 2023 – DECEMBER 2, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 26	10:00	Connie Gabriel+	Richard & Lydia
	12:00	Dijohn Rubio & Kiara Cairei Rubio (Liv.)	
Mon. Nov. 27	9:30	Maureen Hamill+	Sister
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente-Lawler+	John Lawler
Tue. Nov. 28	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Josefina Martinez—Thanksgiving	
Wed. Nov. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	John McKay+	
Thurs. Nov. 30	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Mariana+	Anna Lee
	11:45	Sebastian Park and Family (Liv.)	Juliahna Park
Fri. Dec. 1	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Michael Peltier+ Birthday—Tom Peltier+	Michelle Supper
Sat. Dec. 2	9:30	Ernesto Ascrate+	Frayda Ascrate
	11:45	Maurica Bontuyan+	Family

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

The Lord promises to look after the flock himself.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

All shall be brought to life in Christ.

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

The last judgement of the nations.

SYMPATHY.- It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Clare Connolly. Clare was a member of the SMA Guild for long time. She died November 17, 2023. Our sympathy to the Connolly Family.

SYMPATHY.- The Society of African Missions, American Province is sad to announce the passing of Anne Giotta. She died on Friday, November 18, 2023. Anne worked for the SMA in Tenafly for many years before she retired. Our sympathy to her children.

“In so far as you did this to one of the least of these... you did it to me.”

Illustration

In his sermon at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey in September 2022, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, took as his theme the servant leadership that had marked the life of the late Queen. The fact that this resonated so well with millions of those who listened was that her commitment to her Christian faith and to a life of service was a theme marking her whole life. Her service of her Lord was revealed in her service of others; the power she exercised was not that of might. It was something she publicly committed to on her twenty-first birthday.

That same commitment to service was made by or for each one of us at our baptism and confirmation. Today we are invited to reflect on our personal commitment to the Lord, serving him in others.

Gospel Teaching

The account of the last judgement given towards the end of Matthew’s Gospel is interesting in both its contemporary use of example and its offering of a clear moral imperative for the future. The separating of sheep from goats would have been a frequent task for the shepherds of Christ’s day; the animals were herded together and separated when it came time for market or stocktaking. Matthew uses an everyday image to convey an easy-to-understand principle to his hearers. We too shall face judgement; it is a certainty of our faith. It is a simple judgement, not complicated by questionnaires or examinations; the Lord – to whom all hearts are open – will point us one way or the other.

Matthew reminds us in the story that when that separation of the “sheep” from the “goats” takes place, it will be too late to do anything about it. There is no opportunity to put our side of the story, no bargaining or appeals process, no jury of our peers. If we want to influence the decision, we had better do it now, while we still have the chance. St Benedict puts it eloquently in his Rule: “Run while you still have the light of Christ!”

Application

The Gospel gives clear, unequivocal examples of how to make sure we are the right side of the line. Our judgement depends on how we live our lives now. Every day, as we pray the Our Father, we ask: “Thy kingdom come.” This is not an appeal for God to get on with it and complete the work of creation so we can all live in peace and harmony. It is a presenting of ourselves to become the instruments of that kingdom-building in offering our own lives in imitation of Jesus, whose kingdom-building comes to its climax in the power of the cross. Our commitment to the kingdom is to be of total self-giving in a life of Christian service – feeding those who are hungry, giving drink to those who are thirsty, making the stranger welcome, clothing those who are naked, visiting those who are sick and those in prison. Our faith is a faith of service, and it is that which will determine whether we stand on the right or the left hand of the Lord.

Judgement is both something that will take place in the future and – at the same time – something that takes place at every moment of every day of our life. A shepherd is constantly faced with decisions to make about the care of the sheep, to find food, water, shelter; for so many in our world today those human rights are limited, withheld or denied. We shall be judged on our responses now, not on our aspirations or desires. The American civil rights campaigner and priest Philip Berrigan said: “If they come for the innocent without walking over your body and mine, then a curse on our life and a curse on our religion.”

The celebration of Christ the King is far from cosy and comfortable; it is a renewed challenge for us to act now, through our lives of service, for the building of God’s kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. If we listen to scripture and act on it in lives lived in imitation of Christ, the servant king, we too shall reveal our love of the Lord in the service of others; we shall have no need to fear judgement.

Living the Word