



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: \$1,356

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

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of NOVEMBER 12, 2023 – NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 12	10:00	Benedict Walsh+ & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Quinn Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. Nov. 13	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Andrej Mikulak+	Family
Tue. Nov. 14	9:30	Joaquin Miguel Achevida+	Cely Rosal
	11:45	Janina Mojak+	Richard & Lydia
Wed. Nov. 15	9:30	Joaquin Miguel Achevida+	Cely Rosal
	11:45	Beatrice & Patrick Walsh+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Nov. 16	9:30	Joaquin Miguel Achevida+	Cely Rosal
	11:45	Nam Yae Cho Marianna+	Anna Lee
Fri. Nov. 17	9:30	Joaquin Miguel Achevida+	Cely Rosal
	11:45	Holy Souls	Victoria Costa
Sat. Nov. 18	9:30	Memory of Mariana Cho	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Carleen Ambulo (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo

Today’s Readings:

First Reading *Wisdom 6:12-16*

Wisdom, God’s loving purpose for us, is waiting for us to find her.

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Paul gives us reasons to hope. If we die in Jesus, God will bring us with him to stay with him for ever.

Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

Jesus warns us to stay awake, ready for the bridegroom to come, ready for the wedding feast of heaven.

Sympathy.- The SMA Community send our sympathy to the Family and friends of Teresa O’Malley. Teresa died November 1, 2023. May she rest in peace.

“Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.”

Illustration

Weather forecasting is becoming an ever more exact science. All around the world, scientific instruments record the changing data, temperatures and air pressure, wind strengths and directions, ocean currents and jet stream. Satellite pictures enable us to see the weather as it develops and make predictions about whether or not it will rain tomorrow. All this data is collected and over the years patterns can be recognised which add to the certainty with which the forecasts are presented. At the same time volcanologists keep an eye on active volcanoes, and seismologists record the evidence of shifting tectonic plates which can cause earthquakes. We try to be at least one step ahead of nature in our efforts to protect life against the possibility of natural disaster and to discover the best conditions in which to provide food for the earth's population. But despite our best efforts, we are still surprised by floods and earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes. Life on earth is very fragile. We still do not know the day or the hour when disaster might strike.

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus uses the marriage practices of his time and place to teach a more serious lesson. This time our reason for staying awake and on the watch is not merely about the weather, but about our future destiny in the kingdom of God. We have been invited to the wedding feast of Christ to his bride, the Church. As members of the Church, we are all, as it were, bridesmaids waiting for the Lord to come to take us to his house. In many traditional rituals it is still an important event when the bridegroom takes his bride from her home to his. It requires some ceremony, perhaps a procession with torches. At our baptism, we were presented with a burning candle which was entrusted to us to be kept burning brightly so that we will be ready to welcome our Lord when he comes. In the early Church there was an expectation that Christ would come again very soon to take his bride to himself. As time went by, the expectation diminished and people grew tired with waiting. In some cases, the light was flickering and dying. People needed to be encouraged to stay awake, to be on the watch, to keep the flame of their faith alive.

Application

The one good thing that can come out of a natural disaster is the way in which the international community responds. Governments and non-governmental organisations race to bring aid to people in distress. Appeals are made, especially in wealthy nations, and volunteers rush to help those affected. Food and clothing, water and medical supplies, are flown in, and the devastating effects are minimised as much as possible. But it is never enough. We should be better prepared. We should take better precautions. We should be better at coordinating a response.

The greatest disaster, of course, for us as believers, is the loss of eternal life. If we should be better prepared for natural disasters, if we should be able to read the signs of our times better in political and natural events, how much more should we be prepared for the Lord's coming at the end of time? How can we keep our lights burning, the flames of our baptismal candles alight?

At our baptism, the flame of our faith was entrusted to our parents and godparents with the words: “Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.” As we grow, we take on this responsibility for ourselves. It's up to us to keep the flame burning brightly. But we are not on our own. We are members of the community of faith. Already we are united with the saints as we wait for the Lord to come. We encourage one another with the example of our faith. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours, we don't wait for disaster to strike. We love one another and care for the whole world together in our everyday life, strengthened by the love of Jesus which we share in the Eucharist and all the sacraments. Together we are the bride of Christ, waiting for our Lord to come.

Living the Word

GET WELL! The SMA Community is sending well wishes to Clare Connolly.
May she be blessed with good health and a quick recovery.