



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: \$742

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of NOVEMBER 19, 2023 – NOVEMBER 25, 2023

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 19	10:00	Holy Souls	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Henryk Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
Mon. Nov. 20	9:30	Jan & Zuzana Balascak+	Family
	11:45	Dominador & Purification Guinto	Guinto Family
Tue. Nov. 21	9:30	Catherine M. & Victor A. Migliaccio+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Wed. Nov. 22	9:30	Burt Kuhlmeier+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Thurs. Nov. 23	9:30	Mary Laird+	Friend
	11:45	Teresa & Ela Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
Fri. Nov. 24	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Mariana+	Anna Lee
	11:45	Giuseppi & Carmela Salituro+	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
Sat. Nov. 25	9:30	Gabriel Garcia+ & David Garcia+	
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

The praises given to the woman here echo the praises given elsewhere in the scriptures to God. She reflects God’s image and likeness.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Standing ready for God may refer to our death and judgement but also to openness to the ways in which God comes to us every day.

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

The parable of the talents shows God as the generous giver of graces, but one who asks that we take seriously the gifts we have and use them with confidence.

“For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Illustration

Britain’s Got Talent is one of the most popular TV shows on UK screens. People love to watch ordinary people like themselves with a gift for singing or dancing, or whatever it is, getting an opportunity to shine. There’s the knuckle-biting moment when the judges get to say what they think, and there are many tears and disappointments as well as cheers and congratulations. Many of us would rather die than put ourselves through that kind of tension and public exposure – we couldn’t bear the humiliation of failure. But often the judges are encouraging, even when they can’t give an act their full approval. Every once in a while, there is an iconic moment when someone quite unexpectedly turns out to have star quality, like the first audition of singer Susan Boyle, who received a standing ovation for her performance of the song “I Dreamed a Dream”.

God also dreams a dream, of each one of us becoming fully the person we were made to be. That dream and desire of God is revealed to us in the deepest desires that we have for ourselves. Every day we are faced with greater or smaller choices to grow or to stagnate, to flourish or to wither. We may not enjoy all the opportunities that others seem to have, but every conversation, every human encounter, presents us with a choice either to be more or to be less fully human. That choice is entirely ours.

Gospel Teaching

Today’s Gospel parable falls into two quite definite parts. Most people find the first part encouraging – we like the idea of the master giving talents to his servants and seeing what they can do with what they are given. We can resonate from our own experience with the idea of making something of what we have in our professional as well as our personal lives.

The second part of the parable is far more problematic. Who has never had a feeling of lack of confidence in themselves? We may remember with a shudder when we had to try something out for the first time or step up to a demand that was made of us. It’s always worse if we have an audience, for that increases our fear of failure. Imposter syndrome is the name given to the fear many people have of others finding out that, for all their apparent calm and competence, they actually haven’t a clue what they are doing.

Jesus makes clear that failure is not the problem, and nor is lack of talent. Not all of us are made to be superstars. But the worst we can do is to mistrust God at work in ourselves. This ties God’s hands, as it were, and makes it impossible for God’s grace to flourish in us. It’s a daily task to believe that what we have and who we are is enough. The more we believe this, the more capable we become of responding to the gift and grace that lies within every moment. Ours may be a “quiet” talent – the gift of being a good listener, for example, or the gift of always being ready with an appreciative or encouraging word. This will not bring us standing ovations or bouquets on the world stage, but it will be the fulfilment of God’s dream for us. Confidence grows confidence, but mistrust grows mistrust. That is the meaning of the devastating punchline of Jesus’ parable, and it is meant to shock us.

Application

One of the great spiritual teachings of St Ignatius of Loyola is called the Examen. It’s not so much an examination of conscience in the sense of recalling our daily faults. It’s more an examination of consciousness, a learning to be aware of how God, on a daily basis, is at work in the world and in our own lives. We learn to see our day from God’s point of view and come to realise how many opportunities we are given to respond to grace. The more attuned we become to the gentle touch of God throughout the day, the more our personal gifts and talents and God’s invitations become clear. This is a free choice which we can take or leave, but if we take it, it leads to life more abundant. Who could say no to that?

Living the Word

**The SMA Community wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving
filled with peace and happiness!**