



# 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: \$1029

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.

#### **Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
House Superior

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Masses for the week of **DECEMBER 24, 2023 – DECEMBER 30, 2023**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Dec. 24	10:00	Iacullo & Sozio Families+	Susan A. Iacullo
	12:00	Dominic Francisco+	Parents
<b>Mon. Dec. 25</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Tue. Dec. 26	9:30	Nam Yae Cho Marianna+	Anna Lee
	11:45	Braulio Monroy+	Richard & Lydia
Wed. Dec. 27	9:30	Charles LaGreca+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Thurs. Dec. 28	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Angel Rubio+ & Alex Bote+	
Fri. Dec. 29	9:30	Charles LaGreca+	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Sat. Dec. 30	9:30	Bill Moran+	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Therese Delaney+ & Maureen Tropea+	Susan Doonan-Murphy

### **Today’s Readings: First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14-16**

*Although Samuel is a “big man” in his day, he’s also sensitive enough to see that it isn’t right for him to be dwelling in a spacious house while God dwells “in a tent”, and he is determined to do something about it.*

### **Second Reading Romans 16: 25-27**

*Paul rejoices in Jesus, whose strength enables us to live out the Good News so that, reaching to the ends of the earth, it draws all people to become Jesus’ disciples. Glory is to be given to the Father through Jesus Christ for ever.*

### **Gospel Luke 1:26-38**

*Luke retells the glorious story of the incarnation. Through Mary’s unconditional acceptance of the angel’s message, Jesus has come into our world as one of us and is like us in all things, apart from sin.*

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve:**

**10am and 12 Noon**

**8:00pm**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas**

**Day: 10am and 12 Noon**

**December 26<sup>th</sup> Masses as**

**usual 9:30 and 11:45am**

***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so, the child born of you will be holy and will be called Son of God.”***

**Illustration** *The incarnation is the most extraordinary, mind-dazzling, significant and fascinating event in human history. It has fired the imagination of artists of every kind. Poets, sculptors, writers, and biblical experts have used striking imagery to put this unimaginable truth into human language. They’ve spoken of it as “a divine kiss of peace”, an “explosion of God’s extraordinary love for us”, a “fresh bond of intimacy” between God and humanity, between the mighty God and God’s tiny creatures. At the heart of this astonishing story stands a woman who is totally one with us in our humanity.*

**Gospel Teaching** *The annunciation uniquely focuses, not upon a great man, such as a general, a politician or a renowned scholar, but upon a young teenager called Mary. Almost from early childhood she has been hidden away in a tiny village called Nazareth located on the very edges of the mighty Roman Empire. She is the kind of person who might be dismissed as a “Little Miss Nobody”. St John’s Gospel records that when Philip, one of Jesus’ first disciples, was told that the long-awaited Messiah had come and was living in Nazareth, his cool reaction was, “What good ever came from Nazareth?”*

*The story of the annunciation begins with the arrival of an unexpected visitor at Mary’s little cottage. An angel, the bearer of startling news, reveals that she is to conceive, carry in her womb, give birth and finally be mother to the long-awaited Messiah.*

**Application** *From the beginning of this Mass, we agreed that if we’re looking for someone to guide us through the final days of Advent, into our Christmas celebrations, and finally into the living-out of the Christmas message in the year ahead, we could not do better than turn to our Blessed Lady.*

*Strangely enough, it is sometimes argued that we can’t take Mary as a model. After all – so the argument goes – she saw Jesus in the flesh, lived with him for thirty years and was endowed with special privileges. Think of her immaculate conception or her glorious assumption into heaven.*

*However, it is none of these things that make her our model. It is, rather, the fact that her life centred upon the Father, on trying to discern his will for her, on daily turning to him in prayer, on alertness to the needs of others, and her readiness to help them in their needs.*

*It is precisely the same things that God is asking of us: not that we should become someone else, but rather that we should remain as we are. God wants us as we are, loves us as we are, with our strengths and weaknesses, our failings and our successes, because God made us as we are, and God has no regrets.*

*In the days before Jesus’ coming, people generally acknowledged God’s almighty power. A prophet like Isaiah could picture God holding the whole world in his hands and encompassing the heavens with an outstretched palm. But even Isaiah could never have begun to imagine what we celebrate at Christmastime – this same God coming to live among us as one of us – coming as a tiny baby, a bundle of weakness and helplessness and, in the end, dying in shame on a wooden cross. He comes into our world, just as we did, by being born of a woman. Without a woman’s cooperation, there would have been no incarnation. Without Mary’s cooperation, there would be no Christmas. It is that thought that leads many people, even small children, to try to reflect her love by practical acts of kindness to their sisters and brothers.*

*If we take time, make time – even just a few minutes each day in this often hectic period - to recall how Mary treasured and pondered “these things” in her heart, we too will ponder them, and come to appreciate why the wonder of Christ’s birth – even at the end of a difficult year like 2023 - calls for celebration, for rejoicing, and for gentle, loving wonder, in the company of Mary. It is she who best teaches us how to love Jesus; it is she who shows us, despite our littleness, to love Jesus as she did by making him the love of our lives.*

*And so as Pope St John Paul II put it, “the faithful, living in the spirit of the liturgy, by thinking about the inexpressible love with which the Virgin Mother awaited her son, are invited to take her as model and prepare themselves to meet the Saviour”.*

*Living the Word*

**SYMPATHY.-** It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Francine M. Corbo. She died December 15, 2023. Francine was a long time supporter, wife of George Corbo, one of our Sunday lectors. We extend our deepest sympathies to George and his family. May She Rest in Peace.

**Blessed and holy season from the SMA community!  
May the spirit of Christmas be with us all and may God  
continue to bless you and your families.**

**Note.–** Knights of Columbus, Saint John’s Council 1345, Dumont will be having their corporate communion gathering at the 10am Mass New Year’s Eve.