



# 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

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

#### **S.M.A. Museum**

Open Monday-Sunday from  
9:00am –5:00pm

#### **Sunday Collection: \$798**

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of JANUARY 28, 2024 – FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Jan. 28	10:00	John & Eileen Ryan+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	World Peace	Victoria Costa
Mon. Jan. 29	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	John Hamill+	Daughter
Tue. Jan. 30	9:30	Moon Ho Ha	Maria Kang
	11:45	Clare Connolly+	Angela Hickey
Wed. Jan. 31	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Michelle Chung	Friend
Thurs. Feb. 1	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Dorothy Stimpfel+	Breda Walsh
Fri. Feb. 2	9:30	Russ Michael Luppino (Liv.)	Gina
	11:45	Vic. Suresca+ & Leny Reyes+	
Sat. Feb. 3	9:30	Joseph Kang (Liv.)	Cecilia Kang
	11:45	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	

### **Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 18:15-20      *God will raise a prophet among you who will speak with the Lord’s word.*

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35      *Paul invites people to fulfil their role for which the Lord has called them, free from worry.*

**Gospel** Mark 1:21-28      *The crowd recognises Jesus as a prophet who offers a teaching that is new, which he speaks with authority.*

### **THANK YOU - Message from S.M.A. Fathers**

Follow the history of the Society of African Missions in Africa and in the U.S.A. Remember you share their history. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedication and generosity.

**HOLY HOUR.- Saturday, February 10 at 8pm**

## ***“He taught them with authority.”***

### ***Illustration***

*One of the surprising gaps in the Gospels is any description of what Jesus actually looked like. If you had known someone who had been in the synagogue in Capernaum and had heard that Jesus had healed the possessed man, you would have wanted to know what this Jesus was like. Would you have wanted to know how tall he was, the colour of his hair, what he was wearing? But your friend who was a witness tells you something else — he taught with authority. This impression seems to block out everything else.*

*The lack of description in the Gospels of what Jesus looked like is a gap that can inspire creativity. The absence of a description can lead to a generous range of images as different communities recognise Jesus as one of their own. Today we mark Racial Justice Sunday, and the diversity of ways of seeing Jesus can not only give us insights into who Jesus was but also remind each one of us to see the presence of Jesus in both friend and stranger.*

### ***Gospel teaching***

*Jesus is seen as offering something new, something different to the scribes.*

*Just as the Gospel writers do not tell us what Jesus looked like, neither does Mark actually tell us what Jesus taught at this time. In the opening chapters of Mark’s Gospel, the only teaching is: “The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.” In keeping with the style of these initial chapters, where Mark moves quickly from place to place, it is short and to the point. Jesus is like a commander issuing instructions; the commands must be clear and brief so that they are understood and received — and that is what gives him authority.*

*Jesus’ authority seems therefore to be based on the brevity of what he says — and on the meaning being clear. The people recognise him as a prophet who, as Moses says in the first reading, speaks the words of God.*

*That we are still listening to Paul’s letters today tells us that the people of Corinth also recognised that Paul taught with authority and wished to pass on that teaching. Unlike the succinctness of Jesus in Mark’s account, Paul has more to say – developing his argument over longer sections. The danger is that we can miss the essence of what Paul is saying by being caught up in the way he is saying it. To contemporary ears, Paul may be presenting a series of stereotypes of men and women, but this may miss his main point. As it was true in 1st century Corinth so it is today that people lead busy lives and yes, we need to make time to listen to the Lord, but not so that we neglect the needs of others. Be holy but also be real.*

*Returning to the Gospel, in Mark’s account words are not enough. What gives Jesus’ teaching true authority is not only what he says but also what he does. When Jesus speaks to the possessed man, he is direct and to the point: “Be quiet! Come out of him!”*

*The possessed man responds to his command and is healed. This action causes the people to repeat that Jesus’ teaching has authority.*

### ***Application***

*In today’s Gospel Jesus perhaps provides a model for leadership and gaining the respect of those whom we serve. At its heart is integrity between the person, what they say and how they say it, and their actions. To have authority is to have a match between who we are, what we say and what we do. In the opening chapter of Mark, it is not as though Jesus is saying easy things to people – “Repent and believe” and “Be quiet!” – but his authority means that they are able to listen and hear what they need to hear.*

*If we had been present in the synagogue in Capernaum, would we have been open to Jesus’ new teaching and have recognised his authority? We would have needed to follow the advice of the psalm response: to be ready to open our hearts and listen to the voice of the Lord speaking to us today.*

Living the Word

**February — Black History Month.**- The African Art Museum of the S.M.A. Fathers at Tenafly, New Jersey is one of five museum around the world founded by the Society of African Missions (S.M.A.) an international Roman Catholic missionary organization that serves the people of Africa. The museums continue the vision of S.M.A.’s founder, Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac (1813-1859). The French-born clergyman urged his Society to respect and preserve the culture of the peoples they serve, the unique vision among missionaries of his time.

Visit our S.M.A. African Art Museum. Open daily - Monday to Sunday 9am to 5pm