



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

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

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

Sunday Collection: \$1,120

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JANUARY 14, 2024 – JANUARY 20, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 14	10:00	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Maria Walsh+	Flynn Family
Mon. Jan. 15	9:30	Salvatore Salituro+	Enrico Salituro
	11:45	Margaret Doonan+ & Kathleen McDermott+	Susan Doonan
Tue. Jan. 16	9:30	Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Quinn Family	Mary Quinn & Family
Wed. Jan. 17	9:30	Rosa Fernandez (Living)	Friend
	11:45	Dennis & Patricia (Living)	Patricia Gorman
Thurs. Jan. 18	9:30	Joseph Kang (Living)	Cecilia Kang
	11:45	Shane Gallyot (Living)	Dad & Mom
Fri. Jan. 19	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Living)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Joseph Kang (Living)	Cecilia Kang
Sat. Jan. 20	9:30	Mary Naughton+	John Lawler
	11:45	Joseph Kang (Living)	Cecilia Kang

Today’s Readings:

1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19 God called Samuel and he responded in freedom.

1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 Anyone who follows the Lord shares his Holy Spirit.

John 1:35-42 Andrew, John and Simon Peter came to learn about Jesus through spending time with him.

Mark your Calendars!

HOLY HOUR— Saturday January 20th 2024 - 8 pm

“Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, ‘What do you want?’ They answered, ‘Rabbi’ – which means Teacher – ‘where do you live?’ He replied, ‘Come and see.’”

Illustration

*“I was a menace as a child. Every toy that I was given, I took apart to see how it worked.” Even from childhood, David Burville of the television series *The Repair Shop* was destined to become an organ builder and restorer, when he would dismantle, repair and reassemble precious items.*

We are also curious about each other. How often have you listened to someone speaking and tried to work out their accent? Have you ever wondered from what part of your hometown a celebrity originated and whether you might have met them in the supermarket or at the bus stop?

Did Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln ever know that they shared the same birthday of 12 February 1809? What might have happened had they spent time together? Anne Frank was only 38 days older than Audrey Hepburn. What might have been the story of the Hollywood actress if she had she met the teenage victim of the Holocaust?

Chatting with a stranger leads to discovery, perhaps unexpectedly finding previously unknown and unsuspected shared links. Such encounters can be thought-provoking. Occasionally, they are life-changing experiences.

We are all amateur detectives, investigating things that we find interesting, but many different magnets attract our energy and concentration. This is what makes life so fascinating and varied.

Gospel teaching

Today's Gospel tells us of Andrew and John, two Galilean fishermen who were originally followers of John the Baptist. On hearing the Baptist use an unfamiliar expression, they were puzzled. Why did he call Jesus the “Lamb of God”? What did it mean? Why did he describe another young man with such reverence and respect? Andrew and John, like many others, regarded John the Baptist as a prophet sent by God. How could he be secondary in importance to the stranger who asked for baptism? If Jesus was a carpenter from a small town in Galilee, Andrew and John already knew something of his background for, despite their different occupations, it resembled their own experience – but the Baptist implied that Jesus had an “added extra”. Curious, they wanted to learn more.

When Andrew and John approached Jesus, they called him “Rabbi”, already sensing that Jesus had something to teach them. They asked where he was staying because their unsatisfied curiosity needed time together, talking about more than fishing and carpentry.

When they separated, Andrew looked for his brother Simon, whom Jesus would later rename Peter. As intrigued as Andrew and John, he also wanted to discover what was different about Jesus – and so Jesus gathered his first three disciples simply by arousing their interest. He didn't coerce them. They were free to stay with John the Baptist – but discipleship is never forced. Andrew, John and Simon freely chose to follow Jesus – and that freedom made all the difference.

Application

Andrew and John heard John the Baptist describe Jesus as “the Lamb of God”. After spending time with him and making time for each other, their understanding of Jesus took a quantum leap: they described him as “the Messiah”. Their conversation was not focused on the superficial topics, which would have meant that, at the end of the day, none of them learned anything.

When Andrew and John met Jesus, their relationship changed from an encounter of that curious strangers to potentially lifelong friends and disciples of the carpenter from Nazareth. Their transformation from strangers to something far deeper happened gradually. Andrew and Simon Peter could not foresee a martyr's death. John was unaware that, as Jesus died, he would receive the responsibility of caring for Mary for the rest of her life. Jesus sometimes felt frustrated in teaching the future leaders of the Church. Yet he also knew that having sparked his disciples' curiosity, they would follow him until, like him, they paid the ultimate price for their fidelity.

“There is no such thing as a stranger: only a friend whom we have not yet met.” Understanding and appreciating another person is a risky process which needs openness and sharing what matters. Can I make the effort to discover the riches that God has placed in another person's heart? Might a stranger become a friend?