



# 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

**Christmas Collection: \$3131**

**Sunday Collection: \$1465**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.



#### **Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
House Superior

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Masses for the week of JANUARY 7, 2024 – JANUARY 13, 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. 7      | 10:00       | Padaloy & Andaya Families+                    |                    |
|                  | 12:00       | Caterina Modafferi+                           | Abbadesa Family    |
| Mon. Jan. 8      | 9:30        | Michael R. Desrochers+                        |                    |
|                  | 11:45       | Deceased Loved Ones                           |                    |
| Tue. Jan. 9      | 9:30        | Ramon Ambulo+                                 | Rosanne Ambulo     |
|                  | 11:45       | Holy Souls In Purgatory                       | Victoria Costa     |
| Wed. Jan. 10     | 9:30        | Moon Ho Ha+                                   | Maria Kang         |
|                  | 11:45       | Filomina Salituro+                            | Enrico Salituro    |
| Thurs. Jan. 11   | 9:30        | Joseph Kang (Liv.)                            | Cecilia Kang       |
|                  | 11:45       | Athena Athans (Baby) Special Intentions       | Victoria Ann Costa |
| Fri. Jan. 12     | 9:30        | Joseph Kang (Liv.)                            | Cecilia Kang       |
|                  | 11:45       | Denise & Mon (Liv.)                           | Patricia Gorman    |
| Sat. Jan. 13     | 9:30        | Yang Nam Kim Pedro (liv.)                     | John Jung          |
|                  | 11:45       | Joseph Kang (Liv.)                            | Cecilia Kang       |

**Today’s Readings:**  
**First Reading** *Isaiah 60:1-6*  
*Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come.*  
**Second Reading** *Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6*  
*All people share in the promise and salvation of God.*  
**Gospel** *Matthew 2:1-12*  
*“And falling to their knees, they did him homage.”*

**HAPPY 99<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

**Fr. Albert Cooney, SMA**

**May God bless you!**



**Mark your Calendars!**

**HOLY HOUR— Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 8 pm**

## ***“We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.”***

### ***Illustration***

*Twelfth Night is the night when people traditionally take down the Christmas trees and put away the time-honoured decorations for another year. It is a moment often tinged with sadness as families and visitors have now departed. Many decorations have stood the test of time and tell a story of a family, sometimes joyful, other times marked by tears. The missing Christmas cards record the stories of bereavement and lost friends. The Three Kings, who have been moving towards the crib, now take their proud place near Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This intimate scene is explained to children who wonder at the sight of the crib.*

*Caspar bears the gold for a king, Melchior the frankincense for a deity, Balthasar the myrrh whose scent is already leading us towards the tomb at Easter. In the well-known carol We Three Kings we sing,*

*“Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.”*

*Yet the cold of the tomb will give way to Christ’s glorious rising from the dead.*

*In the Christmas story, we discover our identity as a people who follow Jesus and are his disciples. The beauty of the scene at the manger captures the hope of the Christ Child and the joy that is proclaimed each Christmas.*

### ***Gospel Teaching***

*The Magi bearing their gifts have followed the star that appeared as a mysterious sign in the night sky. They travelled from the East over mountain and desert. In their longing to understand the meaning of this twinkling light, they persevered on their hard journey through very long, cold nights and short days. Tiredness and weariness must have been part of their wintry journey.*

*They enter the house of the Holy Family where they see the Child with his mother Mary and his protector Joseph. Their house has the welcome and warmth of a home that is full of love. They are offered hospitality in the Eastern custom. They bow low and offer their gifts to the innocent and fragile child who is utterly dependent on his mother and St Joseph. They pay homage to the new king. They see both a baby and a king. There is a poverty in the simple scene but also a richness, because the presence of the Christ Child fills the whole room. They recognise him as their God.*

*T.S. Eliot writes in his poem The Journey of the Magi about their homeward journey:*

*“We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, With an alien people clutching their gods. I should be glad of another death.”*

*They know that their world has been changed and they no longer fit into the world in the same way. They are not sure what this will mean for their future. They begin to find the meaning of the Messiah who will save his people in the Jewish scriptures. They know in their hearts that this is the child they have met. All people have been sent a redeemer who will free them from their sins. He has been born in poverty in Bethlehem and will proclaim the coming of God’s kingdom. The Magi learn that he will save all people by his death and resurrection and that they will have life in this world and eternal life in the next.*

### ***Application***

*As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, we affirm our belief in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, light of the nations. We confess our belief that he is the Saviour of all people. We unite as Christians of East and West in our belief that the message of Christ gives hope and joy to all who believe. We bow down and pay him homage.*

*We thank God for the faith that has been handed down to us, whether from grandparents, within families, by friends, or by helpful priests and religious. We name in prayer those people who have sustained us in our faith and helped us in the difficult times.*

*As we move into the new year, let us make our new resolutions, perhaps to read the scriptures daily, to pray the rosary, maybe to be generous in almsgiving. Let us choose to do something to deepen our faith and love this new year.*

*Living the Word*

**SYMPATHY.-** We extend heartfelt sympathy to Eleanor Woerner and family whose husband John passed into Eternal Life, Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 10:35am. Eleanor attends our Sunday Services.

**NOTE:** Please join us for the annual Mass for Life sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.  
Sunday, January 14, 2024                      2 PM adoration and rosary                      3 PM mass