



# 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: \$1291

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
your local parishes.



#### **Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
House Superior

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Masses for the week of JANUARY 21, 2024 – JANUARY 27, 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. 21	10:00	Aiden O’Sullivan	Breda Walsh
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Jan. 22	9:30	Eleanor Bayley+	
	11:45	Joseph Kang (Liv.)	Cecilia Kang
Tue. Jan. 23	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker	Friend
	11:45	Anne Giotta+	Angela Hickey
Wed. Jan. 24	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Special Int. Christine Sarner (Liv.)	Victoria Costa
Thurs. Jan. 25	9:30	Anne Giotta+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Ann Vailen Quilling+ & Felicitas Garcia+	
Fri. Jan. 26	9:30	In Thanksgiving Martha Paladino	
	11:45	Wedding Anniversary Juliana & Joseph Lee (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family
Sat. Jan. 27	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Joseph Kang (Liv.)	Cecilia Kang

### **Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading:** *Jonah 3:1-5. 10*

*Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance. They hear his call and return to the Lord.*

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

*Life is short. Do not waste it on passing things.*

**Gospel:** *Mark 1:14-20*

*Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.*

**MEMORIAL DONATION.-** The Altar Candles were donated by  
Helga and Henry Vertullo in memory of Anne Giotta.



## ***“Follow me.”***

### ***Illustration***

*In 2006 Qusay Hussein, an Iraqi man from Mosul (Nineveh of the Old Testament), was playing a game of volleyball, cheered on by his family and friends, when a suicide bomb exploded near him, taking away his sight, half his face and nearly his life. Given a second chance at life and speaking of his experience many years later, Qusay said: “I live in Austin (Texas) now. I’ve been here almost seven years, and soon I’ll have completed my degree at the University of Texas. I’m a refugee, a product of war, but in many ways I feel lucky. Not only am I still here, but I’ve started a new life doing things I could never have imagined. I’m hopeful about the future. If what I’ve been through has taught me anything, it is that you should take every opportunity that comes.” Today’s readings speak of taking opportunities, of being given a second chance and of the invitation to live our Christian faith in new and life-changing ways.*

### ***Gospel Teaching***

*By the time Jonah has the word of God addressed to him “a second time”, he has already been seen as the cause of a storm at sea, thrown overboard and swallowed by a big fish – all in his efforts to escape from the God of Israel. Seeing what befell him because of his lack of obedience to God’s will, Jonah takes this “second chance”. In doing so, he brings salvation to the people of Nineveh. His message is urgent: there are, Jonah tells the people of Nineveh, only forty days left before their city will be destroyed.*

*In our second reading, Paul reminds the people of Corinth “time is growing short”. Paul’s language is dramatic and can even appear cruel and outrageous, especially when he suggests that those who have wives should live as though they had none; and those who are mourning should live as though they had nothing for which they should mourn. This dramatic language is because Paul felt the second coming of Christ was imminent and he wanted to shock his fellow Christians into following a more Gospel way of life.*

*The call to Simon, Andrew, James and John and their response is no less striking. They are going about their ordinary work, casting their nets into the lake, or, in the case of James and John mending their nets in preparation for fishing. Jesus calls his new disciples to believe in the Good News. In fact, Jesus is the Good News, and he is calling them and us to believe in him and all that his kingdom stands for.*

*Like Jonah and Paul, the disciples leave all to follow Jesus. Jesus then gives them their new responsibility, to become fishers of men. They are to proclaim the Good News of God’s kingdom of love, justice and peace to those they meet on their journey of life, calling others to follow Jesus just as they have. From mending nets, they will now follow Christ mending broken hearts and bodies and restoring others to the fullness of life. They are given new opportunities to teach, to heal, to hear God’s word, firstly in their own hearts and then in the hearts and on the lips of those they serve. Answering Jesus’ call literally turned their lives upside down.*

### ***Application***

*As was true in the life of the disciples, Jesus comes to each one of us in our ordinary lives. If, as St Paul says in today’s reading, we are “engrossed in the world”, we can be blinded to Christ’s presence in the day-to-day events of our lives. We will miss the opportunity to follow Jesus, to be bearers of the Good News for those around us and to live our Christian lives fruitfully and faithfully. Our God is a God of “second chances” and of endless opportunity. Like ourselves, neither Paul nor the disciples were perfect, but they were all offered the opportunity to follow Jesus and some were even given a second chance to understand his mission and message. This can reassure us that, should we fail, God is waiting to offer us another opportunity, to offer us forgiveness and healing and a return to his loving embrace.*

Living the Word

**February — Black History Month.- Visit our S.M.A. African Art Museum. Open daily - Monday to Sunday 9am to 5pm**