



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: \$1063

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 OF LENT

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – MARCH 2, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb.25	10:00	Paul Castronuevo+ Rodolfo Sumbilla, Jr.+	Lucy Lipoma
	12:00	Robert Murphy+	Susan Doonan
Mon. Feb. 26	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Dominic E. Francisco+	Cezar & Martina Francisco
Tue. Feb. 27	9:30	Mary E. Martins (Living)	Sister
	11:45	Paul Hamel, Jr+	Lucy Lipuma
Wed. Feb. 28	9:30	Avelino Quilling+ Virgie Mayo+	
	11:45	William Maher+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Feb. 28	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Eleanor Bayley+	
Fri. March 1	9:30	Neill & Forgrave Families (Special Intentions)	
	11:45	Ann Kurpiel+ Bill Portmann+	Michelle Supper
Sat. March 2	9:30	Stoever & Mongiello Families (Special Intentions)	
	11:45	Monica Kang Family	Cecilia Kay

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Abraham is willing to offer his only son to God, but God spares him.

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

Since God gave up his only Son for love of us, what else will he not do?

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

Transfigured with heavenly light, Jesus reveals his divinity to the disciples.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday during Lent
 at 7:30pm

CONFESSIONS:

Every Saturday afternoon
 from 4-5pm or
 by appointment.

HOLY HOUR.- Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 8pm

“There in their presence he was transfigured.”

Illustration

Have you ever spent ages trying to figure something out, only to have a flash of inspiration just when you have forgotten all about it? Some people call it “a lightbulb moment”. Often it happens when we least expect because lightbulb moments come from the unconscious mind. We cannot bring them on, but we can welcome them all the same. Sudden clarity may lead to a burst of energy or renewed sense of purpose.

The eighteenth-century British engineer James Brindley often had to rely upon inspiration. He was the first of the great canal-builders, pioneering techniques that had never been attempted before. Whenever Brindley met with a problem, he would take to his bed until a solution sprang to mind! One of his lightbulb moments was a simple but brilliant idea called “contouring”. Building canals through hillsides involved earth-moving on a massive scale. It suddenly occurred to him... why cut through the hill when you can go round it?

Lightbulb moments are not confined to engineering. It is possible to have a lightbulb moment about a person. We may suddenly see someone “in a new light”, as they say. It is not that they have changed in any way. More likely, we have by spending more time with them, or listening more attentively to what they are saying.

Gospel Teaching

Peter, James and John saw Jesus in a new light, literally so, when they accompanied him onto the Mount of Transfiguration. Mountaintops in the Bible are places of revelation; of encounter with God. It was on a mountain that Elijah called down fire from heaven; on a mountain that Moses received the Commandments. Coming down from the mountaintop, the face of Moses shone.

People had been speculating whether Jesus might be another Moses... or Elijah ... or even John the Baptist come back to life. The disciples were unsure. Their confidence in Jesus had been shaken recently. His earlier popularity seemed to be waning, and he kept talking about suffering and death. Then, suddenly, here on the mountain, they saw him speaking with Moses and Elijah. He was radiant with light. It was wonderful for their Master to be in such company. Peter even offered to build shelters, assuming the prophets to have come back to life.

It was then that the realisation struck. Jesus’ dazzling appearance was not reflected glory coming from Moses or Elijah: the light was coming out of him through the weave of his clothing! If they had had any doubts about whether Jesus ranked alongside these greatest of prophets, those doubts were now banished! Jesus was far greater: he was divine! Wonder turned to terror as the disciples found themselves enveloped in the bright cloud of God’s presence and heard the Father’s voice bestowing upon their Master a unique authority: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him!” By this time, Moses and Elijah had faded from view. It was hardly surprising... the disciples had eyes for no one but Jesus.

Application

The mountaintop can be a metaphor for any transitional space where things... or people... are seen from a new perspective. We do not have to climb mountains for this to happen. A time of prayerful meditation can offer such a space. This Lent, we may like to spend time alone with Jesus, just as Peter, James and John did, listening to him as our heavenly Father bids us. The thought may not appeal to everyone. Some might even share the disciples’ terror, for the voice of Jesus can be a challenging one, urging us to forgive and pray for our enemies. It commands us to love, and there may be something inside us that resists. Rather than build Jesus a shelter, some might prefer something more robust: to keep him safely contained!

However, it is not possible to compartmentalise our lives. The bright cloud of God’s glory reaches out to wherever we may be. Today’s Gospel describes how heaven keeps spilling over into our world. In revealing Jesus in his divinity, it calls us, too, to be holy as well as human. We are all sons and daughters of God, all beloved, and though we may pass unnoticed in a crowd, there is in each one of us a little of the glory seen in Jesus. There will be moments when other people notice something different about us; moments, too, when we become suddenly aware that the person next to us is more special than we thought. It all depends how much we let them shine!