



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

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
House Superior

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 11, 2024 – FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Feb.11	10:00	Robert Murphy+ & Robert McDermott+	Susan Doonan
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Feb. 12	9:30	Memory of Joseph Choi and Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Fe Tolentino+	Erly Cortez
Tue. Feb. 13	9:30	Anthony Cortez (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Gilbert Guinto Thanksgiving (Liv.)	Family
Wed. Feb. 14	9:30	Marinos Loukeris+ (First Anniversary)	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Eva Miraflores+ & Ludivina Goji+	
Thurs. Feb. 15	9:30	Memory of Joseph Choi+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Catherine Doonan+ Moseley & Gerald Doonan+	Susan
Fri. Feb. 16	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Hackman Family
	11:45	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Sat. Feb. 17	9:30	John Hamill+	Daughter
	11:45	Diane Crowell+	Martha DiPaolo

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

There are always people who are excluded, but Christ is the great uniter.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

There is no action too trivial to offer to the glory of God.

Gospel Mark 1:40-45

The harshness of the law excluding lepers prepares the way for the mercy of Christ.

NOTE:

Ash Wednesday
February 14th
marks the beginning
of Lent
Masses at:
9:30am and 11:45am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel each Friday during Lent at **7:30pm**

CONFESSIONS: Starting of the first Saturday of Lent, there will be confessions every Saturday afternoon from 4-5pm or by appointment.

“You can heal me.”

Illustration

The hospital movement began when Jesus welcomed lepers into his presence and said one word in Greek, which we translate as “I want to.”

Medieval pilgrimages led to the development of hospitals. Since people often made pilgrimages because they were unwell, they needed places to stay. So, hospital meant, literally, a place for guests, a word derived from the Latin “hospes”, meaning “stranger” or “guest”. The guest-house owners gradually developed considerable medical knowledge and practical ways of helping sick people to recover.

Christianity and health care have long been closely associated. The World Day for the Sick, which is celebrated today, was instituted in 1992 by Pope St John Paul II. He intended it to be “a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one’s suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ”.

Appropriately, the World Day for the Sick is celebrated on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, although this year it is not observed, as it falls on a Sunday. Nevertheless, it makes today a very good day for thinking and praying about healing and health care, and our Bible readings provide us with a focus.

Gospel Teaching

The contrast between the passages from the Old and New Testaments is striking.

The “lepers” of the Bible were clearly people with severe skin disfigurements. Whether or not they suffered from leprosy, as “Hansen’s disease”, the Old Testament law about leprosy was a form of both exclusion and inclusion. At that time leprosy was thought to be highly contagious, so it was, in part, practical. If the skin condition was severe enough, according to the judgement of a priest, the leper was forced to live at the edge of the camp – not completely excluded but travelling on the periphery.

By contrast, in Mark’s Gospel Jesus is “moved with pity” for the leper who approaches him, even reaching out to touch him. Then he says a word that we translate as the phrase “I want to.”

Christianity didn’t invent medicine, or even make great progress in finding cures, although inventive medieval monks and many Christians throughout history have contributed greatly to modern health care. Rather, Jesus brought sick people into the very heart of Christianity. The hospital is a work of Christ because it reverses the practice of excluding sick people and gathers them into a place of care.

Application

Despite the very real risk of infection, the medieval hostellers kept caring for sick pilgrims, believing that to die in their service assured their own place in heaven. Today, the many Christians working in modern health care – and those who don’t – make caring their business. Perhaps we should all take the word “carer” more literally because we are all involved in the business of caring.

So, what is the meaning of caring in this sense? Ways in which we can help include encouraging and praying for medical staff. But “carer” is not just a term for someone who works in health care. It is wider and deeper than that. A carer is anyone whose care is visible in their actions, which is the goal of every Christian. Through caring, we make our faith visible and share it with others. For what is truly in our heart will be truly in our actions.

As carers in this sense, we share our faith, although this doesn’t mean trying to press it on other people. Our Lord and his disciples learned to go where they were invited. Evangelisation is always a response, never an imposition. We should trust that our faith is visible through our caring actions. We might say that we need to have faith about faith itself. Faith will find a way.

Like the original medieval hospitals, many places of care are also places of pilgrimage. Whatever help we can offer each other, life will end one day. No one is outside the care of God because God wishes to work through us. This is the message of Lourdes. Sick people are not to be excluded, but through care and compassion for them, we can bring about the healing of humankind.

Living the Word

February — Black History Month.-

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