



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

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

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$1045

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 OF LENT

Masses for the week of MARCH 3, 2024 – MARCH 9, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 3	10:00	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	12:00	Peter Quinn+ 16th Anniversary	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. March 4	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Peter Quinn+ Happy Birthday	Mary Quinn & Family
Tue. March 5	9:30	Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Wed. March 6	9:30	Lilia R Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Kathleen Ryan+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. March 7	9:30	Paradis Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Teresa Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
Fri. March 8	9:30	John Paladino+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Remedios & Rodolfo Sumbilla, Sr.+	Lucy Lipuma
Sat. March 9	9:30	Catarina Yuni Rhee	Cecilia Kay
	11:45	Laura Passarelli	Enrico S.

Today's Readings:

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

The Law is given to the people through Moses, teaching them how to live their lives and how to treat one another.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

The Risen Christ reveals the wisdom of God, a wisdom that is beyond anything we can imagine.

Gospel John 2:13-25

Jesus drives the money-changers out of the Temple and proclaims that he will make all things new.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday during Lent at 7:30pm

CONFESSIONS :

Every Saturday afternoon during Lent from 4-5pm

“Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.”

Illustration

Everywhere we go, we are bombarded with messages to buy. Advertising hoardings loom over our streets, at bus stops and train stations. Adverts pop up on our computer screens, as we scroll through our phones or as we stare at the television. Hawkers loiter outside major tourist attractions like the Eiffel Tower. Museums and art galleries have their shops.

We have been conditioned to consume. An experience often only seems valuable if we have a souvenir to help us to remember it. Our worth is too often measured in the possessions that we have accumulated, regardless of the consequences to our earth, or to those who are exploited in the manufacturing, sale or purchase of these goods.

Those who have the power continue to prop up a system that benefits a few. There is no escape for most of us, who are trapped in this cycle as we try to navigate our way through life as best we can.

This is not a new phenomenon as we can see in today’s Gospel.

Gospel Teaching

Even the Temple has been turned into a place of commerce. Animals are being sold for sacrifice. Money changers are welcoming pilgrims from all over the place and changing their money so that they can buy what they need to worship.

And yet, Jesus drives all of these people out of the Temple. Why? Does he feel that people should not be able to get what they need to offer the appropriate sacrifice? Surely not.

Here in the Temple, we have a captive audience. People who need certain items, and people who can provide them. The situation is ripe for exploitation. There is nothing to stop the moneychangers and the pigeon-sellers from charging whatever they want, no matter what the people can afford. For pilgrims and other worshippers to give glory to God, they must take part in this system that is designed to take advantage of them. Instead of helping people to draw closer to God, the merchants’ motive was personal profit and gain.

Not only this, but the area where the traders had set up was the place set aside for Gentiles (non-Jews) to pray. How could they concentrate on their prayer and worship while surrounded by the hubbub of this marketplace?

This is what Jesus is taking a stand against. He could not allow the exploitation of those who were trying to draw closer to God. He could not accept the hollow gestures, the lip service to religion being offered by those benefiting from this exploitation. He could not have earthly priorities preventing all people from coming to know God.

Instead, he turns the tables, prophesies the destruction of the sanctuary and proclaims that he will raise it all up again in three days.

Application

So what does this mean for us today?

We know that when Jesus spoke of raising up the sanctuary after three days, he was talking of himself. Through the resurrection he has made all things new.

And yet, our world is still filled with exploitation. We still see people who put profit before other people and before their relationship with God. We might not be able to fully break down the systems that enable this, but perhaps we can each try to turn the tables in our own small way.

By living a life where we do not seek our own glory, but the glory of God; by standing up and speaking out when we see greed and unjust practices; by not seeking our own benefit or recognition, but by working together with others for the good of all; by stepping away from the endless need to consume; by stopping, being present and appreciating what we already have; by enabling others to draw closer to God, rather than putting barriers in their way.

As Saint Paul says, the crucified Christ is the wisdom of God. A wisdom which is beyond our imagining. It follows then, that all that we are encouraged to hold dear by the world around us – money, wealth, status – becomes unimportant. True wealth is found in our relationships with others, with Creation, and with God, rather than in chasing the next new purchase.

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