



# 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

**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: \$1,359**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.



**Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
 House Superior

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Masses for the week of MARCH 10, 2024 – MARCH 16, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. March 10	10:00	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa	Victoria Costa
Mon. March 11	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Richard Lipuma & Ace Lipuma (Healing)	Lucy Lipuma
Tue. March 12	9:30	Our Ladies Intentions	Paul LaGreca
	11:45	Special Intentions (Thanksgiving)	
Wed. March 13	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Prayer Group
	11:45	Theresa O'Malley+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. March 14	9:30	William Molloy+ (Angela's Brother)	Loughlin Family
	11:45	Moon Ho Ha+	Maria Kang
Fri. March 15	9:30	Family Mueller (Liv.)	Family Member
	11:45	Holy Souls In Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Sat. March 16	9:30	Mueller Family (Liv.)	Family Member
	11:45	Karen Forgrave (Happy Birthday) (Liv.)	

**Today's Readings: First Reading** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

*God's persistent love and mercy in the face of rejection are revealed.*

**Second Reading** Ephesians 2:4-10

*Through grace, not by our own efforts, we have been saved, so that we may live the good life God has always meant us to live.*

**Gospel** John 3:14-21

*Christ is the light of the world, come not to condemn but to save, and those who live by the truth come into that light.*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

Every Friday during Lent at **7:30pm**

**CONFESSIONS :**

Every Saturday afternoon during Lent from **4-5pm**

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”**

### **Illustration**

*There are many examples in literature of people who, through the course of the story, move from despair to hope, selfishness to generosity, darkness to light. Rarely do they do this entirely through their own efforts. Usually someone is rooting for them, encouraging them, or coaxing them towards something better. This persistent support empowers them, not only to do better for themselves, but also to do better for others.*

*In Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, Scrooge is shown a way of living that differs from his self-absorbed existence. He sees what might be if he let joy, light and generosity into his world. He responds, reluctantly at first, but later with uncurtailed joy. In Barbara Kingsolver’s Demon Copperhead, several good people refuse to give up on a boy born into a life of poverty, neglect and addiction, where circumstances seem to make bad outcomes inevitable.*

*In many cases, the path is not straight. Life is messy, and ups may be followed by downs. Characters resist support. Or they accept support but nevertheless encounter hurdle after hurdle. As in real life, there may be no fairy-tale ending. But it is usually clear that goodness makes a difference, and that even one good person can transform how another experiences the world. Indeed, those involved in young people’s services know that having “one good adult” is crucial in helping a young person to flourish. And surely this continues to apply in adulthood. Scrooge, after all, was no longer young when he accepted love from others in a way that enabled him to bring love into the world in turn.*

### **Gospel Teaching**

*In John’s Gospel, it is Jesus who has the power to transform the lives of those he encounters. This applies in the sometimes abstract, theological sense of salvation and in the concrete sense of how people live their lives.*

*John describes how people “have shown they prefer darkness to light because their deeds were evil”. They have avoided the light because they fear it will expose their wrong actions. In the first reading, we hear of “infidelity”, “shameful practices”, and the repeated resistance of the people when God sent “messenger after messenger” until it seemed “there was no further remedy”.*

*But as Paul tells us in the second reading, God persisted. “God loved us with so much love that he was generous in his mercy.” Even when we “were dead through our sins”, God brought us to life with Christ. Paul is clear, however, that we are not saved by anything we alone have done. We are saved through grace and faith, gifts from God given in Christ Jesus. He is that one good person who empowers us “to live the good life”. He is the one who John says was sent by God to save the world, empowering us to live by the truth “so that it may be plainly seen that what [we] do is done in God”.*

### **Application**

*Living the life God intended is impossible if we go it alone. That is why we open our hearts to Jesus as the one who brings light, grace and faith into our lives. Spending time in prayer and reflection, pondering on the scriptures, and celebrating our faith in community can help us experience the transformative light of Christ. This light is not just for us as individuals, even if we experience it through deeply personal prayer. Our life in Christ is not simply an “inward” or “upward” spiritual exercise. Just as we see the power of one good person on many a character in literature – and as we may have experienced in our own lives – so we are called to reach into the world.*

*Each of us is just one person, but our influence can be transformative if we are the one who brightens another’s day, offers a word of comfort, lifts another up, treats our environment and every person with the respect they deserve as part of God’s creation. Our gestures do not need to be grand, although some of us may be in a position to do great things. Today, let us think of one way in which we might be one good person in the world.*

Living the Word

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