



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: \$1,184

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the week of APRIL 28, 2024 – MAY 4, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 28	10:00	Justina Arie Chung (Liv.)	John Jung
	12:00	Billy Hickey+	Angela & Family
Mon. April 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	JoAnn DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Tue. April 30	9:30	Paradis Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Wilson Padaloy+ Rudy Tong+	
Wed. May 1	9:30	Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)	
	11:45	Maureen Hamill+	Sister
Thurs. May 2	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Fri. May 3	9:30	Bill Moran+	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Spec. Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
Sat. May 4	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker	Friend
	11:45	Spec. Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	

Today’s Readings:

First reading Acts 9:26-31

Saul preaches fearlessly in the name of the Lord on his return to Jerusalem.

Second reading 1 John 3:18-24

Whoever keeps Christ’s commandments lives in God and God lives in them.

Gospel John 15:1-8

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.



SATURDAY, May 18, 2024—HOLY HOUR

“It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.”

Illustration

The world is full of gardeners and, just as with flowers and fruit, gardeners come in all shapes and sizes. We have the professionals who dedicate their lives to producing the best of blooms, new and old, and we have the city dwellers with nothing but window boxes and indoor plants who still manage to create havens of beauty and interest. Then there are those who grow plants commercially to feed the world's population.

Over the last hundred years we have seen the development of all sorts of chemical and mechanical aids to enhance productivity. This was followed by the rather terrifying discovery that many of these aids were having a destructive effect on the environment and the birds and bees that were nature's system of support for growth. Some of the food being produced, at its best, could be lacking in nutrients. At its worst, it could prove toxic. The movement now, sometimes called the slow movement, is looking to find ways of working with nature rather than against it. Nature is to be regarded as our bosom friend rather than as an enemy that must be subdued. This approach will take time and we don't know whether we have that luxury. Our earlier ideas of progress are resulting in rapid climate changes and the consequent transformation of the planet into a desert, which of course will not bear fruit. How shall we enable our earth to bear fruit that will last?

Gospel Teaching

Jesus is very fond of the image of the vine. He also uses other pastoral images: the flowers of the field, ears of corn and seed that is sown, but he likens the kingdom of heaven to a vineyard on more than one occasion and stresses our responsibility for helping the vines to flourish. In today's reading he goes even further and speaks of himself as the vine of which we are the branches. He then uses images from the practices of cultivating a vine to deepen our understanding of how we may become his disciples. The images he uses apply equally to vine cultivation today as in the time of Jesus. You can't leave a vine to its own devices. It will just sprawl all over the place and produce leaves rather than fruit. To counteract this tendency the vine grower severely prunes each vine during the winter months.

Jesus says we are pruned by his words. It is through listening to him that we stay on the right course and produce fruit. If we don't do this, if we don't remain attached to him, then we are like dead branches that are good for nothing but to be thrown away. There is no easy choice: we either submit to being pruned, that is, to be formed and developed by his teaching, or we are thrown on the fire. Jesus will go on to say that this is the mystery of his love, the Father's love for him and his love for us. Bound to him through this love we can survive the troubles earthly life brings us and be able in our turn to bear the love that will last.

Application

We sometimes think of our lives as purely enclosed by our individual occupations and relationships. Our responsibilities end at the garden gate. The state of our present world urges us to extend that viewpoint so that we ask more wide-reaching questions. Is there anything I can do in my life that will make this world a better place to live in? The image of the vine as expressed by Jesus may help us to find a way of responding to this challenge. As Jesus sees it, we can only bear fruit if we are in union with him. We celebrate that union in the Eucharist, where his word also helps us to see our way more clearly. The fruit we then bear is not restricted to being kind to our family and friends but to seeing how our stewardship of the world may best be achieved. If this is done by working with nature rather than against it, it is also achieved by working with the many others who are working with the same intent, even if their values and motivation may, in other ways, differ from ours.

The fruit we are trying to bear is literally a fruit that will last and is grown, not through exploitation, but through cooperation and shared goodwill – and as the civil rights anthem once encouraged us, “we shall overcome someday!”