



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: \$1,129

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 EASTER

Masses for the week of APRIL 21, 2024 – APRIL 27, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 21	10:00	Memory of Joseph Choi & Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	12:00	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Mon. April 22	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Jan Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
Tue. April 23	9:30	Ela Michalowska+	Richard & Lydia
	11:45	Lauren Widner+	Martha DiPaolo
Wed. April 24	9:30	Tae H. Chung (Liv.)	John Jung
	11:45	Virginia Monroy+	Richard & Lydia
Thurs. April 25	9:30	Antonio & Angelica Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Linda Pierson+	Martha DiPaolo
Fri. April 26	9:30	William Colon+	Diana Colon
	11:45	Owen Jules Moseley+	Susan Murphy
Sat. April 27	9:30	Paul Jung—Birthday (Liv.)	John Chung
	11:45	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Acts: 4:8-12

Peter publicly and courageously proclaims that it is only in the name of Jesus that anyone can be saved.

Second Reading 1 John: 3:1-2

John promises that although God has already lavished incredible love upon us by transforming us into children of God, the best is yet to come.

Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus calls himself a “good” shepherd because he freely lays down his life for his sheep, because he “knows” his sheep in the rich scriptural sense of living in intimate union with them and because he shares his life with them, as the Son shares life with the Father.

SYMPATHY.— Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Lorena Castro and Family on the passing of her brother Javier Castro Velez. He died on April 18, 2024. May the soul of Javier rest in Peace.



“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

Illustration

Saying goodbye can be a painful experience. Saying a final goodbye to a loved one can be heartbreaking. That’s how the apostles must have felt at the Last Supper when Jesus told them that he was going to leave them. Next day he would meet a savage, degrading death. And the apostles? They would take to their heels, convinced that Jesus’ mission was a disaster.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus tried to prepare them for it. A few days earlier he had begged them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled”, even hinting that when he returned to the Father, he’d be closer to them than ever before. And so it was. Within weeks of his death, these same men were boldly proclaiming, “Jesus is alive. We’ve seen him in the flesh”. They recalled how the apostle Thomas had once asked, “We don’t know where you’re going ... so how can we know the way?” They remembered Jesus’ precious reply: “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

Application

“I am the way” – Jesus doesn’t point outwards, as if to indicate a route to be followed. He points to himself, “I am the way”. Walking in step with him, we draw closer to God, we understand what it means to have God as our Father.

“I am the truth” – Jesus doesn’t simply speak the truth: he is the truth. In everything he does – in his miracles, his care for the sick and rejected, his acceptance of a cruel death – all is truth, a revelation of the true nature of our God. When one of his friends said that all he wanted was to see this Father that Jesus was always talking about, Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Jesus and the Father are equal in every way.

“I am the life” – Life is God’s gift to us, a gift so precious that people cling to it even in appalling circumstances. An early Christian writer claimed that the glory of God is a human being who is fully alive. That is what Jesus has come to offer us: “I have come that (you) may have life and have it abundantly.”

“Abundant life” – not simply a continuation of life as we know it, but a new and richer life than we could ever imagine, untouched by pain or sadness or distress: the life that was planted in our hearts on the day of our baptism and, like baptism, is ours for ever. No wonder Jesus spoke of it as “being born again”!

All this that we’ve talked about so far is the message that the apostles were delivering within weeks of the resurrection, and, as Peter tells us in today’s second reading, many souls were coming to accept it. I wonder why? Not because of the say-so of a bunch of Galilean fishermen, but because of their personal experience that Jesus is truly the Way and Truth and Life.

Since that day, countless others have made the same discovery. In his first encyclical letter Pope Benedict explained that becoming a Christian isn’t simply a personal decision we make. Rather, it is an encounter we experience with a person. That person, Jesus, gives life a new horizon and a new direction. Ultimately, the reason we are here today is because Jesus is truly the Way and Truth and Life.

The Second Vatican Council was the initiative of Pope John XXIII, “Good Pope John”, as he was popularly known. He had quickly endeared himself to countless souls, whatever their religious affiliation, by his humility and gentle sense of humour.

One night, so the story goes, he was pacing to and fro in his room, weighed down by his heavy responsibilities, when he heard a voice. It was the voice of the Lord: “You go to bed, now, I’ll pace up and down for the rest of the night”. Whatever the origin of the story, its message is still true because, although life still has its difficulties, Jesus remains our everlasting hope. As Peter put it in our second reading today, to hope in Jesus is like being called by God out of darkness into his own glorious light.

Sometimes friends say, “I wish I had your faith”. As we know, faith is not of our making. It is a sheer gift of God. And that is precisely why we are here today – to make Eucharist, to give thanks to the Father through his Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, the one God, who is our Way and Truth and Life.