



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: \$1056

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Masses for the week of MAY 19, 2024 – MAY 25, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. May 19	10:00	Zaire Contreras+ & Florencio Doctora+	
	12:00	Mary Greene+	Ellen Flynn
Mon. May 20	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kintop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Purificacion Guinto+ Julian Gomez+	Family
Tue. May 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Burt Kuhlmeier Jr+	Paul LaGreca
Wed. May 22	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kintop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Gilberto Guinto+	Martha Paladino
Thurs. May 23	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kintop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	William Malloy+	Martha Paladino
Fri. May 24	9:30	Renario Bontuyan+	Family
	11:45	Patrick Roache (Liv.)	
Sat. May 25	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kintop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Henryk Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia

Today's Readings:

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

Having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples spoke in the languages of all nations about the marvels of God.

Second Reading Galatians 5:16-25

When the Holy Spirit is a guide in the ways of goodness, no earthly power can pass judgement.

Gospel John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as empowering followers in their witness.



“Be aware.”

Illustration

Some years ago, a family was travelling to America across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship. As part of their preparation for the long journey the mother of the family purchased some fresh bread and cheese prior to boarding: it would serve as their provisions for the crossing. After almost a week of bread and cheese for breakfast, lunch and supper, the eldest child, a boy approaching his teens, complained bitterly to his father that he just could not stomach any more bread and cheese. His father took compassion on him, produced a penny from his pocket and told the boy to go and get an ice cream.

The boy later returned, grinning from ear to ear. His father, curious about his son’s overwhelming happiness, asked: “Did you have an ice cream?” Not just one replied the boy, but plates and plates of ice cream, not to mention the steak and chips I had first!” His father was confused. “And all that for a penny?”, he said. Promptly the boy took out of his pocket the penny and gave it back to his father saying, “No, it was all free, the food is included in the ticket.”

How often have we said, “if only”, if only I knew the food was free, if only I was aware what was on offer, if only I recognised the plentiful gift.

Gospel Teaching

“If only.” If only you realise what I have given you already and what you will receive after I have gone. The Gospel passage today is a part of what is termed “the farewell discourse”. At the Last Supper, the night before he died, St John recalls Jesus’ final words to his closest friends, his twelve apostles. What we hear today, on this feast of Pentecost, is his promise, or rather his revelation, that they would receive his spirit. It is the Holy Spirit which will enable them to continue his work of proclaiming to the nations the Good News of the Kingdom of God. In this passage, Jesus is telling his apostles that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be sent by the Father, will powerfully work in and through them to proclaim a future kingdom of truth. The Holy Spirit will complement all of the work of proclamation that Jesus has himself already carried out. The kingdom of truth which he speaks of is the eternal life promised to those who are faithful. This was Jesus’ “if only” to his apostles. If only you can understand fully the mission you have been called to continue... If only you can understand the power of the Holy Spirit that will be working in and through you...

Application

As we recall the day of Pentecost when the gifts of the Holy Spirit were awoken in the apostles, I can’t help but think, “Why did it take so long?” Why did it take fifty days for them to burst out of that Upper Room, filled with the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit? Did they realise what they had received? Did they understand what was on offer? Did they recognise the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

It often takes some time and a little thinking before we realise what God has made available to us. Despite the apostles having received so much directly from the Lord, they needed time to think and realise what powerful gifts were available to them. Once they did recognise their God-given abilities, there was no turning back. As we heard in the first reading today, recalling the events of Pentecost morning, the apostles preached the Good News of the kingdom to all nations.

I am quite sure that when the family crossing the Atlantic discovered they could eat like kings, they never touched the bread and cheese again. As we celebrate this feast of Pentecost, we not only celebrate the fact that we have been filled with God’s Holy Spirit through the sacraments, especially baptism and confirmation, but we also celebrate the gifts that God has given us in life; gifts that the Holy Spirit awakens!

Today, the feast and the scriptures we have heard remind us not only of the fact that we have God-given gifts, but also that these gifts have been awakened through the Holy Spirit so that they can be put to good use. This is the challenge of today’s feast and of the scriptures; do we use the gifts that have been awoken in us through the Holy Spirit? Do we serve others as Christ has called us to?