



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: \$683

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
House Superior

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of MAY 12, 2024 – MAY 18, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. May 12	10:00	Placido Trinidad Aquino+ & Lolita Quijano+	
	12:00	William Malloy+	Mary Quinn
Mon. May 13	9:30	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Burt Kuhlmeier+	Paul LaGreca
Tue. May 14	9:30	Dominic E. Francisco+	Cezar & Martina
	11:45	Gilberto Guinto+	Josie Martinez
Wed. May 15	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Special Intentions (Liv.)	Breda Walsh
Thurs. May 16	9:30	Frayda Ascrate (Liv.)	Erly Cortez
	11:45	Family Mueller (Liv.)	Family Member
Fri. May 17	9:30	Alexi Navalny+	Mack Campbell
	11:45	Jim Kurpiel+ 82 BD & Ann Peltier Broaddus+ 62 BD	Michelle Supper
Sat. May 18	9:30	Victor & Lolita	Rudolf & Lynette Lewis
	11:45	Feliciano Guinto+	Family

Today's Readings:

First reading Acts 1:15-17. 20-26

It took a throw of the dice to make Matthias a witness to the resurrection following Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

Second reading 1 John 4:11-16

God is love and whoever loves lives in God and God lives in them.

Gospel John 17:11-19

As the Father sent Jesus into the world, so does he send his disciples out into the world witnesses to truth.



as

HOLY HOUR - SATURDAY, May 18, 2024

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

Illustration

What if your entire future were decided by tossing a coin or throwing dice? That's what happened to Matthias and Barsabbas. When Jesus told the eleven apostles to go out and spread the Good News, they decided that they needed help. Perhaps somebody could fill the gap left by Judas? They shared their job description with Matthias and Barsabbas whom they had known since they met Jesus and shortlisted them, and the result depended on the luck of the draw.

“Heads you win. Tails you lose” isn't usually the best guide to important decision-making, but it worked on this occasion. Although this is the only time that Matthias and Barsabbas are mentioned in the New Testament, Barsabbas possibly became both a bishop and martyr. Matthias travelled through Cappadocia and was possibly also martyred.

Today is World Communications Day. It reminds us that the message given and the message received are to be consistent, relevant and accessible to the audience. The apostles knew that Matthias and Barsabbas were authentic witnesses who could say, “I was there.” The apostles and their new recruits, because they had been with Jesus “since the beginning”, could describe what they had seen and heard and people could expect it to be both accurate and credible.

Gospel reading

Today's Gospel is part of all that Jesus had to say at the Last Supper. He knew that he had reached the end of the road and that his enemies were looking to kill him. That is why he openly prayed to the Father, asking him to care for those for whom, until that moment, Jesus himself had protected. We hear him tell his Father “Your word is truth” beyond anything that the world can offer. He foretells the suffering that lies ahead of his followers because, so often, their words will go against the convenience, comfort and half-truths of those who are unprepared to listen. Yet Jesus also promises his followers a joy far beyond their imagining precisely because, in laying down his life in the cause of Truth, his joy will also be theirs.

On this World Communications Day, we remember that we are filled, not only with the words of Jesus, but also with the Word himself. As T. S. Eliot once remarked, “humankind cannot bear too much reality”. Truth hits home and shows us who we really are. Sometimes that can fill us with new confidence and hope but, sometimes, truth also shows us our shortcomings. We don't enjoy seeing our faults and failings or the areas which need a bit of improvement. Truth can sometimes overwhelm us – and that is what Jesus foresaw at the Last Supper: not everybody who would listen to his disciples would be able to bear the truths that they heard.

Application

World Communications Day reminds us of our responsibility and enormous privilege as Jesus' disciples: to use our human words to make the divine Word become flesh in our society and in the hearts and minds of the people who hear us. It is a day when, rightly, we remember those who work in the media. Their work is not easy and, for some, it means risking their lives to inform us of matters which should be at the forefront of our minds and prayers.

Today we also pray that our media might be responsible, uplifting and enriching. It is sometimes difficult to ensure integrity and truthfulness in the face of money, political and technological pressures, and we therefore praise and congratulate those for whom truth does not mean big headlines and maximum publicity.

If this is true of our electronic and printed media, it is even more true when it comes to transmitting the message of faith. The Synod on Synodality has uniquely allowed the entire Church to share the Gospel message in a global effort to communicate Jesus' words to today's people. We often face situations which were never imagined or encountered 2000 years ago. May Jesus accompany us into our future. We don't want to leave things to the toss of a coin or the throw of a dice!

Living the Word

May God bless all the mothers living and deceased.