



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: \$1005

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of JUNE 9, 2024 – JUNE 15, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. June 9	10:00	Justin Lamorena+ Johnas Lamorena+	Family
	12:00	Mueller Family (Liv.)	Family Member
Mon. June 10	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kintop (liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Henry Lewis+	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis
Tue. June 11	9:30	Fr. Joseph Bordonaro (Liv.)	Friend
	11:45	Lucy Lewis+	Rudolf Lewis
Wed. June 12	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kiptop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Maria Gomez+	Family
Thurs. June 13	9:30	Annie Feeney+	Mary Quinn & Family
	11:45	Linda Rubio & Elena Arabia (Liv.)	
Fri. June 14	9:30	Soonga Chung (Liv.)	John Chung
	11:45	Arthur Flynn+	Family
Sat. June 15	9:30	Special Intentions Lindsay Kiptop (Liv.)	Louise Coull
	11:45	Winifred S. Mendoza+	Rudolf Lewis

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Genesis 3:9-15 – Adam and Eve are tempted in the garden by the serpent.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 – We believe that God, who raised the Lord Jesus to life, will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and that there is an everlasting home built by God for us, in the heavens.



Gospel Mark 3:20-35 – Jesus tells us that our sins will be forgiven and that everyone who does the will of God is a brother or sister or mother of Jesus.

“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”

Illustration

*There is a lot of “them” and “us” or “us” and “them” in our world. At the start of a documentary entitled *Us and Them / The Story of Us*, the actor, producer and narrator Morgan Freeman refers to his home state of Mississippi, where he feels a sense of belonging, not just to the land but to the people too. He experiences it in the way people talk, in the food they eat, and in the way they treat one another.*

But he also refers to the history of segregation in his state, where people were polarised into separate camps – into an “us” and a “them”. He recognises that there is still division, culturally and politically, in a world where people can barely talk to one another and where division spawns hate, and he wonders if this is part of human nature or if we can bridge the gap that separates “us” from “them”.

His question is a challenging one. Parents and teachers often remark on how small children don’t “see” difference the way adults might and are naturally inclusive in their play. Yet the world in which these children grow up is undoubtedly divided – by race, nationality, geography, wealth, war, climate change and inequality – and children soon recognise division. This may make us wonder if we are destined to be divided and if it is impossible to preserve, nurture and restore inclusivity and unity. Are we inevitable victims of our self-created divisions, doomed to a cycle of war and destruction – not only of “them” but also of “us”?

Gospel Teaching

A sense of “us” and “them” prevails in today’s readings. The book of Genesis presents the intrusion of temptation and evil into the beautiful world God created. The harmony of the garden is shattered by the image of the man and woman and their offspring as enemies of the serpent and its offspring.

We know from hearing many other Old Testament readings that this sense of “us” and “them” led to war and injustice, and that many prophets spoke God’s word in that context, attempting to encourage God’s people to do God’s will.

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus makes it clear that it is in doing God’s will that we are united. The scribes seem intent on “othering” Jesus – insinuating that “Beelzebub” or an “unclean spirit” is in him – thereby discouraging the crowd from listening to him.

In an atmosphere of such division, Jesus is emphatic in his assertion that people who are divided can never stand. When people in the crowd tell him that his mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for him, he gestures towards those who have been sitting listening to him and identifies them as his mother and brothers, saying that anyone who does the will of God is his brother and sister and mother. He refuses to see God’s family as polarised into “us” – his family – and “them” – not his family.

Living the Word

APPEAL.- For a very long time now we have been in need of an updated speaker system in the chapel. We are aware that it has been an inconvenience for many. It is long overdue. We need your help in this endeavor. We greatly appreciate your financial support. God bless you. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the Chapel.

Fr. Dermot S. Roache, SMA