



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
 Tenafly, NJ 07670  
 Phone: 201-567-0450  
 Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://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: \$726**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.

**Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
 Provincial Superior

**Fr James McConnell,**  
 House Superior

**FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Masses for the week of JUNE 30, 2024 – JULY 6, 2024**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. June 30	10:00	Rose Belfiore+	Paul LaGreca
	12:00	Willie Molloy	Bernadette & John
Mon. July 1	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Maureen Roache (Liv.)	
Tue. July 2	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Help Prayer Group
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Wed. July 3	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Help Prayer Group
	11:45	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. July 4	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Thomas Lee (Liv.) Birthday	Juliana & Joseph Family
Fri. July 5	9:30	Cesar S. Francisco Jr. Husband Liv. Birthday	Martina Francisco
	11:45	Deceased members of the Costa Family	Victoria Costa
Sat. July 6	9:30	Memory of Choi and Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Robert Doonan+ & Joseph Suarez+	Susan Doonan

Today’s Readings: **First Reading** Acts 12:1-11 – Guided by an angel, Peter miraculously escapes from prison.

**Second Reading** 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18 – Paul declares that the Lord has always stood by him and has given him the power to proclaim his whole message to the world.

**Gospel** Matthew 16:13-19 – Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah; and Jesus proclaims that he will build his church on the rock that is Peter.



***“But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed.”***

### ***Illustration***

*Have you ever wondered where God is in our world? We seem to be beset with problems and conflict. There is war and strife abroad, and here at home there is often division and ill-feeling in our communities. Rates of dissatisfaction and unhappiness are on the rise; many young people report feelings of hopelessness and there is an epidemic of loneliness in the Western world. Some have reached the conclusion that God is either absent from, or unconcerned with, our everyday problems.*

*On this feast of Saints Peter and Paul, we are going to concentrate our attention today on St Paul. In today's Second Reading Paul says that the Lord gave him the power to proclaim his message to the whole world. But what exactly was this message, and what relevance does it have for today? How did St Paul answer the question “Where is God in our world?”*

### ***Gospel Teaching***

*Jesus, of course, was a Jew. The religion telling about him is Christianity. St Paul is perhaps the single most important follower of Christ when it comes to establishing this new religion. St Peter knew Jesus personally, of course. He was, after all, the leader of the original apostles. But Paul never knew Jesus, and before his conversion on the road to Damascus, he enthusiastically persecuted Christians.*

*Paul, someone who never knew Jesus of Nazareth, reveals in his Letters what he knows about the Christ, who has always existed from the beginning of time and who lives today in everything and everyone. Unlike Peter, this knowledge was not acquired by meeting and listening in person to Jesus preach, but through the actions of the Holy Spirit, which began when he was thrown from his horse near Damascus. In other words, Paul is much more like you and me than Peter is.*

*Paul's contribution is immense. He confirms the key message that Jesus gave the disciples at the Last Supper – Christ lives in us: “the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). In 2 Corinthians Paul asks us, “Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is really in you?”*

### ***Application***

*Imagine for a moment who we could become if we allowed that acknowledgement to be our ever-present guiding principle. Imagine how different the world would be if we thought, spoke and acted with the belief that Christ lives in us. Can we acknowledge with Paul that “Christ is really in me” and therefore in everyone else too, and particularly in the least of my brothers and sisters?*

*And what if we became aware that the Father is always seeing and loving the Christ who lives in us? Interestingly, when we begin to live in Christ, we live no longer for ourselves, yet strangely, we are more ourselves than we have ever been. Not I alone, but us – God living in me. And it doesn't stop there; it's never just God and me. It's always God and me and others. Paul goes on to destroy all the tribal ways of thinking that bedevil society: “There are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).*

*If we are honest, many of us struggle sometimes with the idea of “loving God”. Where do we start? Paul tells us that we love God by loving what's in front of us in the here and now. And if we think about it for a moment, where else would God be found? You can either live life just seeing God in certain holy places or specific “easy to love” people, or you can see him everywhere. The way to love God is to love what he has created (everything) and those in whom he resides (everyone).*

*Christ is in all, and for all. This is the oft-neglected cornerstone of our faith, the foundational reality on which the whole Gospel rests. And Paul is our ideal guide as we journey to a deeper understanding of where God is and how we ought to live our lives. Paul is in the same boat as us. He didn't know the historical Jesus, but he did know the risen Christ. This relationship with Christ is available to us too – what Paul experienced and preached can, through the actions of a generous God, be our lived experience too.*