



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: \$654

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of JULY 28, 2024 – AUGUST 3, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 28	10:00	William Cole Hackman	Joseph & Noreen
	12:00	Enrico Jr. & Anny Salituro+	Enrico S.
Mon. July 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Katie G. Neill (Happy Birthday)	
Tue. July 30	9:30	Robert Doonan+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Wed. July 31	9:30	Georgina Moreno+	
	11:45	Benedict Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Aug 1	9:30	Family (Living & Deceased)	Caron
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Fri. Aug. 2	9:30	Ismail Yavuz+	Josie Martinez
	11:45	Salvatore Liguori+	Victoria Costa
Sat. Aug. 3	9:30	Fr. Stephen Dufrene (Liv.)	Ms. Caron
	11:45	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa

Today’s Readings: *First Reading* 2 Kings 4:42-44 – Elisha feeds the people with barley loaves and fresh grain.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6 – We should do all we can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds us together.

Gospel John 6:1-15 – Jesus feeds the crowd with the five barley loaves and two fish, and twelve hampers of scraps are left over.

HOLY HOUR: Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 8pm

Rosary at 7:30pm

“Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready.”

Illustration

Over the years cookery programmes have become a more than popular area of TV production throughout the world. The presenting chefs become household names and write recipes and travel books that sell in their millions. Supermarkets run out of products the programmes recommend, although it is not known how much the practice of cooking in the home is really affected, as we still spend an awful amount of money on readymade meals. What is true is how much our knowledge and language of food has been widened.

A recent programme had contestants cooking an outdoor meal of foraged food for a group of scouts. What happened to the leftover food? Did the contestants eat it? I hope that the camera crews and assistants were also well rewarded for their painstaking labours.

At the same time as this exultation of food and cookery is happening, we are also facing a growth in famine and a struggle to feed families even in the richer countries. Food banks have grown up in most cities and towns, and more and more people, even if working, find themselves turning to the banks for help. As such, this development is a sign and symptom of the failure of government and society, but that does not take away the responsibility of each of us who have more than enough food to get involved.

Gospel Teaching

In our first reading today we have Elisha, the man of God, feeding over a hundred men with twenty barley loaves, and plenty kept over. And throughout the journey to the Promised Land God provides manna for his people, and again the gift is plentiful. The well-fed crowd understand what Jesus has done and that this is a sign of his God-given powers. In their minds this means that he will be the king who will free them from the Roman occupation, but he is not that sort of king.

Jesus also uses the occasion as a test for his disciples. Do they think that he can feed the crowds? No, they don't. Andrew and Philip, like Peter on other occasions, fail the test. They are filled with doubt, whereas Jesus is quite certain of what he is going to do. But this leaves him on his own. If this miraculous feeding is the start of a chapter about Jesus feeding us with himself in the Eucharist, it will end with many of his followers unable to accept that teaching and leaving him once again alone.

Application

We find ourselves faced with two questions to answer. Do we have the trust that Jesus can still perform the miracles we need? And can we play our part in carrying out what is asked of us in achieving such miracles? There is a sense in which Jesus hands over the responsibility for the world to his disciples, but they can only accept this invitation if they firmly believe in him. They cannot do it by themselves.

It is through the gift of the Eucharist, that Jesus himself enables us to respond. We are never alone. As we view the feeding needs of our world and its peoples both near and far, our first human reaction, like that of the disciples, may be to declare that the task is impossible and certainly beyond our talents and resources. Yet, even as we speak, so many people are making what seem little contributions grow into a huge force for good. Internationally we can support charities which concentrate on feeding the needy. Locally, we can actively help in the running of food banks as volunteers, but we can also contribute a percentage of what we spend on food for ourselves. Supermarkets now provide points for the gathering and delivery of goods, and there are apps which give regular updates on what foodstuffs are most required locally. Each contribution may seem insignificant but put together they help families to survive. As we do this, they do not feel abandoned or left on their own, and it could be argued, neither are we and nor is Jesus.