



# 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: \$853**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.

**Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
 House Superior

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Masses for the week of JULY 21, 2024 – JULY 27, 2024**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. July 21	10:00	Monica Kang Family	Cecilia Kay
	12:00	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Mon. July 22	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	O'Brien Family
Tue. July 23	9:30	Patrick Kelly+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Souls in Purgatory	O'Brien Family
Wed. July 24	9:30	Souls in Purgatory	O'Brien Family
	11:45	Angelo Bonnici+	Gina L.
Thurs. July 25	9:30	Souls in Purgatory	O'Brien Family
	11:45	Gregory Roche+	Priscilla Roche
Fri. July 26	9:30	Souls in Purgatory	O'Brien Family
	11:45	Catarina Yuni Rhee	Cecilia Kay
Sat. July 27	9:30	Winifred Mendonca+	Priscilla Roche
	11:45	Neil Labay (Liv.)	Family

**Today's Readings:** *First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6*  
*God promises, through Jeremiah, a shepherd who will care for his sheep, take away their fears and bring home those which are missing from the flock.*

*Second Reading Ephesians 2:13-18*  
*Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has united humanity and offered us peace.*

*Gospel Mark 6:30-34*  
*Jesus had compassion on the crowd because they were like sheep without a shepherd.*

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 8pm HOLY HOUR**  
**Rosary at 7:30pm**

***“He saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”***

#### *Illustration*

*The Olympic Games are scheduled to start in a few days' time. Of course, it would be difficult to miss the constant media coverage of the preparations and of the athletes and supporters heading to Paris. We've seen and heard impressive accounts of the huge amount of training which each athlete has willingly undertaken, often until it hurts. Each has taken for granted the early mornings and late nights, reduced time with friends and families, strict diets and rigorous, long hours of daily practice so that, when their event takes place, each can hope to be physically and mentally at their peak performance. Each will hope – however unrealistically – to win at least a bronze medal, whereas some will dream of several gold medals as they participate in more than one event. An Olympic medal is surprisingly heavy for its size but it also carries a weight of responsibility because each athlete can be a role model for children and youngsters who also carry a dream of sporting success. Each athlete represents their country with pride. Very few will have the luxury of time for themselves until the Olympic Games and subsequent celebrations are over, when, perhaps, they can think of curling up in front of the television for some binge-viewing of their favourite programmes. Until then, however, they must keep on working. Not only medals, but also achieving a personal best, depend on unwavering commitment, effort and teamwork. Whoever gains an Olympic medal earns it.*

#### *Gospel teaching*

*Jesus and the disciples were so busy that they needed a break. The demanding crowds had prevented them from even having time to eat. We can imagine their sighs of relief when Jesus told his disciples that they would all go away for a few days of peace and quiet by themselves. They climbed into the boat and paddled away, planning to spend the next day or so busily doing nothing. However, despite Jesus' best intentions, when they pulled into shore, people had already guessed where they were going and arrived ahead of them. How the disciples' hearts must have sunk! Jesus felt sorry for the crowd, abandoned his plans for relaxation he abandoned his plans for relaxation, and instead spoke to the crowd and healed those who were sick. He was the Good Shepherd who cared for his sheep.*

#### *Application*

*Some years ago, the famous Spanish opera singer Plácido Domingo was due to sing at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Knowing that many people could not afford the cost of the tickets to his concert, he gave a free, impromptu performance in the piazza outside for anybody who cared to listen. His thoughtful gesture touched many hearts and earned huge gratitude. One man's voice united complete strangers in joy.*

*Without the shepherd, sheep can get into difficulty, especially in bad weather or during the lambing season. We're familiar with the idea of Jesus as the Good Shepherd but sometimes forget that the pictures of him walking through lush meadows with a lamb artistically draped around his shoulders are probably unrealistic. Such images overlook the weight of the animal, its potentially greasy fleece and any fleas and associated “livestock” which might inhabit the wool and transfer across to the shepherd.*

*A shepherd's life is never easy. He must always be willing to go the extra mile on behalf of the sheep. That is why, when Jesus saw the crowds and thought that they resembled a flock of sheep, he had no alternative: he was the shepherd but he was also the pasture.*

*So it is with the coaches who support Olympic athletes. Their care and attention to detail make the difference between success and failure. The athlete might win the medal, but it is the constant support of the coach which helps to make the possibility a reality. The athlete doesn't compete in isolation: he or she is part of a team.*

*Each of us has our own supporting team: those who love and understand us and who are prepared to be with us through thick and thin. We are also probably people on whom others depend. If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, we are called to imitate him and to shepherd the people around us.*

Living the Word

**GET WELL!** The SMA Community is sending well wishes to Jean Dunn. May she be blessed with good health and quick recovery.