



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. Austin Ochu

201-567-0450 Ext. 225

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: \$769

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan, SMA

Provincial Superior

Fr Austin Ochu, SMA

House Superior

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of AUGUST 11, 2024 – AUGUST 17, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Aug. 11	10:00	Memory of Joseph Choi & Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joseph Family
	12:00	McLaughlin Family+	Bernadette & John
Mon. Aug. 12	9:30	Georgina Moreno+	Josie Martinez
	11:45	Charles Maschi+	The Murphy Family
Tue. Aug. 13	9:30	Thomas Aquinas Kang (Liv.)	Kang Family
	11:45	James Shanks+	Angela Hickey
Wed. Aug. 14	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Living)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Aug 15	9:30	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters
	11:45	Angel Rubio & Jimmy Virtucio+	
Fri. Aug. 16	9:30	Angela McCabe (Liv.)	Sister
	11:45	Stefano An (Liv.)	Sister
Sat. Aug. 17	9:30	Vicky Co+ & George Collantes+	
	11:45	SMA Priests (Living)	D’Souza Family

Today’s Readings: *First Reading* 1 Kings 19:4-8
God’s angel sustains and encourages Elijah in his journey to his meeting with God.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:30-5:2
Paul calls us to imitate Christ in his compassionate love.

Gospel John 6:41-51
Christ reveals himself as the bread come down from heaven. Eternal life is promised to those who believe in him.



SYMPATHY.- Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Fr. Oladjouan Habib Akpata, SMA and family on the passing of his mother, Mrs. Omiale Antoinette. May the soul of Omiale Antoinette rest in peace.



NOTE: August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy day of obligation. Masses at 930am and 11:45am

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.”

Illustration

Pontypridd is a town in south Wales. On 1 November 2007, local dignitaries unveiled a plaque to celebrate the centenary of the first time that perhaps the greatest of Welsh hymns was sung in public. Its title in Welsh is "Calon Lân", sung to the tune first composed by John Hughes, an organist in the local Baptist church. So popular did it become that it was even sung at Welsh rugby matches! Its original lyrics in Welsh are beyond most of us, but there is a well-known version in English, its first verse being this:

*Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.*

So much of today's Liturgy of the Word is echoed in that one verse.

Gospel teaching

Elijah journeys through the barren land to Horeb, that is, Sinai. When despair overcomes him, God's angel brings both nourishment and encouragement. Eventually the prophet will reach his destination. There he will encounter God, not in the storm or the earthquake, but as a voice that speaks after a gentle breeze. There seems to be a new intimacy with God. Christ, the divine Son of God, is the incarnation of that intimacy.

There is something sacred about bread, even in a non-religious context. It implies intimacy. After all, the word "companion" means "one with whom we share bread". There is something humble about bread: in its different forms it is the food of the poor. With bread, the poorest throughout the world can sustain life, spared the need for larger amounts of more expensive food that belongs to the domain of the rich. It is not for nothing that bread is called "the staff of life."

It is with such bread that Christ had miraculously fed the multitude, so many of whom lived in daily poverty. But now he goes beyond their earthly expectations. He begins to reveal his true identity: "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

This Gospel is a call to faith in Christ's words regarding the truth about himself. He does not retract what he has said but goes even further in his revelation of self. Some attempt to limit him to his human heritage in Nazareth. Many of his disciples will leave him, disillusioned by his extraordinary words.

But there are those who do not lose trust. Their faith is the Father's gift, and he entrusts them to his Son, with the wondrous promise of eternal life. Faith meets the faithfulness of God. This Gospel passage ends in a more eucharistic theme, developed further in next Sunday's Gospel.

Application

As Christ reveals the truth about himself, we give thanks for the Father's gift of our faith in his beloved Son. It is the foundation of everything that is best in our lives. It is to be welcomed and lived with true humility. It cannot co-exist with any form of intellectual arrogance or feeling of social superiority. God only shares the bread of Christ with those who are poor in spirit. It is accompanied by two great gifts: that of wonder and that of the deepest reverence. Then we ask ourselves: what does the divinity of Christ really mean in our lives? There is so much in our secular culture that undermines the integrity of our faith in the Son of God. And as for heaven, it is perhaps best to remind ourselves of the words of St Paul about "what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him". Finally, we take to heart Paul's words in today's passage from Ephesians: "Follow Christ by loving as he loved you." It cannot be otherwise for those who eat of the same Bread from heaven.

Living the Word

Welcome Fr. AUSTIN OCHU, SMA

With heartfelt joy, the SMA Tenafly Community welcomes Fr. Austin Ochu, SMA.

Fr. Ochu was appointed as a House Superior of the Tenafly House. He was ordained here in the Tenafly Chapel on June 27, 1992, and served in Ivory Coast and Ghana. Upon his return to the States in 1997, worked in Takoma Park as a Formation Director. From 2004, he served as the Catholic Chaplain of the Veteran Affairs Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland for 20 years.

We ask our Lord to lead Fr. Ochu as he takes this new assignment.

