



# 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. 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: \$905**

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

| Date             | Time        | Intention   | Requested by:             |
|------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Sun.-Sat.</b> | <b>8:00</b> | <b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>                 |                           |
| Sun. Sept. 15    | 10:00       | Leo Sunga+ & Joyce Clark+                                     |                           |
|                  | 12:00       | Connie Gabriel+   | Richard & Lydia           |
| Mon. Sept. 16    | 9:30        | Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)                            | Juliana & Joseph Family   |
|                  | 11:45       | Danial Yi & Anna Yi (Living)                                  | Juliana Lee               |
| Tue. Sept. 17    | 9:30        | Memory of Joseph Choi & Mariana Cho+<br>(Korean Thanksgiving) | Juliana & Joseph Family   |
|                  | 11:45       | Emma & Reinhard Tietjen+                                      | Family                    |
| Wed. Sept. 18    | 9:30        | Franco Pastore+   | Marisa Pastore            |
|                  | 11:45       | Special Intentions (Thanksgiving)                             |                           |
| Thurs. Sept. 19  | 9:30        | Desrochers Family (Liv. & Dec.)                               |                           |
|                  | 11:45       | Emilio Alcazarin+ & Nieva Alcazarin (Mother)                  | Nieva Alcazarin           |
| Fri. Sept. 20    | 9:30        | Paradis Family (Liv. & Dec.)                                  |                           |
|                  | 11:45       | Rod Macadaeg+ - Karen Jimenez Balbi+                          | Erlinda Rubio             |
| Sat. Sept. 21    | 9:30        | Catherine M. Hamill+  | Friend                    |
|                  | 11:45       | Dominic E. Francisco+   | Cezar & Martina Francisco |

**Today’s Readings: First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9**

*The Suffering Servant of Israel points towards the Messiah and the cross which Jesus Christ will carry to Calvary. The prophet Isaiah trusts that the Lord will come to his help.*

**Second Reading: James 2:14-18** Faith leads to good actions; love in action is the mark of the Christian.

**Gospel: Mark 8:27-35** Jesus tells his followers that they will have to carry their cross and lose their lives in love to serve him.

**Sunday Volunteers needed.- Do you enjoy singing? If yes, please contact  
 Fr Austin Ochu at 201-567-0450 Ext 225**

## ***“But what about you?” [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?”***

### *Illustration*

*Pope Francis dedicated this Sunday as “Evangelii Gaudium Day” and invites us to celebrate the “Joy of the Gospel”.*

*It is now over four years since the COVID pandemic changed the world for countless people. When we look around our churches, we can think of the people who no longer come to Mass. Some aged, others died, many moved away, but there are also others who have given up the practice of their faith. There are still many who do not share our belief in Jesus Christ.*

*Jane and Mark used to come to the parish and played in the music group. They shielded during the lockdowns and joined Mass by streaming, often from different places. They have never come back. We miss them. Maybe they would appreciate an invitation or contact with the parish? Perhaps not? Pope Francis asks us to reach out to them and walk with them on their journey of faith. Can we help them discover again the joy of Jesus Christ and the good of the parish community?*

### *Gospel Teaching*

*Jesus’ activity today is near Caesarea Philippi. It was a well-known place of pilgrimage. The surroundings are very rocky with lots of caves. A great rock cave had been dedicated as a Temple of Pan, the pagan god of nature and fertility. It was believed that the cave led to a passageway down to the underworld and into Hades. The fertility gods lived there in the winter and so people would come and offer their sacrifices. It was also the great site of the Temple built in white marble by King Herod to commemorate the visit of Augustus Caesar to the site. This area is also the source of the life-giving river Jordan, so it is a delightful place of water and fertile vegetation. At this place of competing gods, Jesus asks his disciples, ‘Who do people say I am?’ He receives various answers. Then he asks them directly, “But you, who do you say I am?” Peter answers with his profession of faith, “You are the Christ”.*

*Jesus asks each one of us the question, “who do you say I am?” Can we make the same response of faith as Peter; you are the Christ who saves us and gives us new life? I am sure we can all make this profession of faith, but what does it mean for the way we live our lives? Does our faith in Jesus so overwhelm us that everything is centred around our life in Christ?*

*When Jesus began to explain the meaning of being his follower, Peter found this difficult to understand. It would mean facing suffering and carrying the cross. It would mean surrendering to Christ and living the demands of love towards others. As we commit ourselves more fully to him, we don’t know where it will lead and what will be the consequences. Jesus tells us that it will change our lives. Peter argued and challenged Jesus. Jesus told him clearly and firmly that this was not God’s Way but man’s. Satan had prompted Peter to be “Number One” rather than place his trust in Jesus. This is a challenge that we too face. Only through faithful prayer and generous love will we know deeply that Jesus is inviting us to follow him day by day. He says, “Come follow me and place your trust in me. I am the Good Shepherd who will look after you”.*

*St James in the second reading speaks about the way in which faith in Jesus Christ must lead to good works. Following Jesus expands our horizons and always invites us to consider the good of the other person, our neighbour. It is not just giving clothes to the charity shop but treating the poor man as a friend and equal.*

### *Application*

*We are invited to find ways of sharing the joy of the Gospel with others. We want to give hope to those who no longer practise their faith and have lost their way, and to spread the message of Jesus to those who do not know him. This is the work of evangelisation.*

*Maybe the parish can refresh its work of reaching out to others as we approach the great Jubilee Year of 2025. It may begin with a smile or asking somebody what their name is. It might be contacting someone who doesn’t come to Church anymore. What will we do as a parish?*