



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: \$749

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 – October 5, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 29	10:00	Father Jay Forgrave (Happy Birthday)	Doris
	12:00	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Mon. Sept. 30	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	James McGoldrick+	
Tue. Oct. 1	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen Hackman
Wed. Oct. 2	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Cathal (Birthday)	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Oct. 3	9:30	Joseph Abitante+	Steven
	11:45	Rosario Ambulo+	Rosanne Ambulo
Fri. Oct. 4	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Sat. Oct. 5	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	John & Edythe Sheehy+	

Today’s Readings: *First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29*

Moses rejects any claim to ownership of God’s work and prays that the Holy Spirit be with all his people.

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

St James invokes judgement on the selfish rich who exploit the poorest of the poor.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-4

Christ speaks the most severe of all his words. What is at stake is our redemption and the safety of the little ones of his kingdom.

SAVE THE DATE: HOLY HOUR
October 12, 2024—8:00pm Rosary at 7:30pm

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

“But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better cast into the sea.”

Illustration

Nelson’s Column is one of the landmarks of London. The 18-tonne statue of the admiral is more than five metres tall and stands on top of a 56-metre granite column in Trafalgar Square. It is taller than the column of Trajan in Rome, but, to the chagrin of some, shorter than Napoleon’s column in Paris! Something of the history of warfare is in that statue. Nelson has lost his right arm to cannon shot. His ship’s surgeon had to amputate his arm to save his life. The other wound is not obvious as we look up at the statue: he has lost the sight of one eye but not the eye itself. This happened at the first of his great victories, the Battle of the Nile in 1798. Nelson was fortunate to survive amputation. Many did not because of shock or subsequent infection. Surgery advanced in the coming centuries, but so, tragically, did the development of weapons used in the conduct of war. Amputations continue to this day. There are those who refuse to be defeated by such life-changing injuries. The Invictus Games serve as an example. First held in 2014, these international events involve injured servicemen and women. The word “Invictus” means “unconquered”, chosen as an embodiment of the fighting spirit of those who refuse to be defeated by their wounds. To their number, we must add all who take part in the Paralympic Games.

Gospel Teaching

Such are the tragic wounds of war. We are engaged in a more fundamental war: that between good and evil, between Christ and the arrogant claims of Satan. It is a war for the redemption of all humanity. Today’s Gospel calls us to the sacrifices we must carry out in our lives. We are to cut out whatever holds us back from the true following of our Saviour. This is painful, but necessary for salvation. It demands courage. Christ uses very powerful metaphors, so serious is what he requires of us. He also speaks of hell. This is not “Sheol”, the place of the dead, to which he descended after his death. It is “Gehenna” which, in Our Lord’s Jewish culture, was the destiny of those who completely reject God and his mercy. Christ speaks also of the damage that can be done to the faith of the “little ones” – be they children or adults – who are especially dear to him. As a mother has love for the weakest of her children, so does Our Lord for these who are the least in his Church; he does so with all the fulness and tenderness of his divine love. He also speaks with the righteous anger that comes with that love. Our Saviour knows the effect of scandal on the most innocent and vulnerable of believers. He uses the images of the grimmest punishments for what is done to those who have his protective love. In contrast, those who show the humblest act of kindness to the little ones are blessed by Christ. This Sunday’s Gospel passage begins with a call to tolerance as opposed to the apostle John’s angry claim to ownership of the power of the name of Jesus.

Application

There are several messages in today’s readings, and they all call upon the authenticity of our bond with Christ. He asks us to cut out of our lives any sin that may hold us back from true service of his kingdom. This demands courage: it is painful but necessary for true discipleship. His words are stern, but even more stern is his righteous anger against those who damage or undermine the faith of the “little ones” who are dear to him. Unrepented scandal deserves the fate of the damned. Christ takes sin seriously, so seriously that he is on his way to Jerusalem to suffer and die for our redemption. We cannot be passive or casual about the insidious power that sin can have over us, and its effect on those to whom we are called to show a special protective love. The Letter of St James calls us to the same hunger and thirst for justice. The fire of the Holy Spirit is to be in our minds and hearts, and not some insipid faith that demands so little of us. We heed the cry of Moses: “If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!” Each day we pray for the same Holy Spirit, not the spirit of timidity and fear but of all that makes of us a prophetic people, speaking and acting as servants, not self-appointed owners of God’s kingdom. There is no place for such elitism among the Catholic people. The “little ones” teach us otherwise.

Living the Word

SYMPATHY.– We extend heartfelt sympathy to Angela Hickey and family in the passing of her sister Gertie Troy. May She Rest In Peace.

MEMORIAL DONATION.– The Altar bread and wine were donated by the Loughlin Family in memory of Gertie Troy.