



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: \$829

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 8	10:00	Ana Tumang+ & Sally Rivera+	
	12:00	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana & Joseph Family
Mon. Sept. 9	9:30	Antonio S. Fernandez (Living)	Sister
	11:45	Madeline Halley+	Susan Doonan
Tue. Sept. 10	9:30	Sam J. Costello+	Porto Family/Mr & Mrs Dominic
	11:45	Laura & Ellie (Living)	Family
Wed. Sept. 11	9:30	Desrochers Family (living and Deceased)	
	11:45	Raul Tomboc+	Josie Martinez
Thurs. Sept. 12	9:30	Gina Luppino (Living)	
	11:45	William Cole Hackman (Living)	Joseph & Noreen Hackman
Fri. Sept. 13	9:30	Paradis Family (living and Deceased)	
	11:45	Justin Lamorena+	Family
Sat. Sept. 14	9:30	Christopher G. Neill (Happy Birthday) (Liv.)	
	11:45	Andrea Luisi+	Marisa Pastore

Today’s Readings: *First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7*

God will open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf.

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Belief in Christ means that we should treat everyone equally. God does not favour the rich over the poor and neither should we.

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Jesus heals both the body and the soul. He enables us all to see and hear more clearly.

SYMPATHY.- Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Fr. Luc Tougouma, SMA and family on the passing of his father, Mr. Elie Tougouma Gama . He died in Ivory Coast, Africa.

May the soul of Elie Tougouma Gama rest in peace.



“If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen!” (Matthew 11:15)

Illustration

Have you ever had an “Aha! Moment”, a time when you suddenly realised something that you previously didn't comprehend, or perhaps when your understanding of something suddenly clicked? The Greek scientist Archimedes is alleged to have experienced a great moment of insight whilst sitting in his bath, which led to him running down the street, naked, shouting “Eureka!” (I have found it!). Today is Education Sunday and we give thanks for all those who have provided those eureka moments for us, those who taught us in the past and all those currently teaching in our schools and colleges. And as we celebrate the vocation of teaching we also give thanks to Jesus, the master teacher. In today's Gospel he touches a man's eyes and ears and lets him see and hear. Good teaching is about opening eyes, ears and minds – letting people see things differently, showing them a new perspective.

Gospel Teaching

So, what is Christ trying to teach us? Notice that Jesus never speaks in theological jargon. His preferred teaching style is the parable: stories about good Samaritans, lost sheep, lost sons and wedding feasts. Stories about things that never took place, but actually take place all the time – in every town and city, on every continent, on every day of human existence. Interestingly, Jesus rarely mentions God explicitly in the parables; they are not “other-worldly” stories but focus on the ordinary events of this world now. He knows such stories will stay long in the minds of those who hear them; he hopes that his listeners will make the connections, that the penny will drop, and they will begin to see life from a fresh perspective. The religious leaders around Jesus claimed to have all the answers. Jesus, on the other hand, often just asks questions, creating problems for his listeners to grapple with rather than spoon-feeding them solutions. It's the grappling that leads to spiritual growth.

Application

The fact that so many people today can remember the parables is a testament to Jesus' teaching power. We have all heard the parable of the Good Samaritan and we are usually impressed. We might say, “What a lovely story. How heart-warming!”

But the parables are designed to go deeper than this. The Gospel writers did not record them so that future readers could admire their prose or marvel over Jesus' undoubted skills as a storytelling teacher. The whole point of a parable is to help us to discover for ourselves something profound, to precipitate a “light bulb moment” which will inspire us to transform our behaviour and become a different person. To say: “In future I will not ignore that person who needs help, I will copy this Samaritan in the way I respond to the needy”. And that is the essence of Christ's teaching. What concerns Jesus is how we act rather than the ideas we hold; he calls us to be people who forgive. He urges us to be generous and compassionate with others and to pursue social justice and the way of peace. There is a bias towards action in the Gospel. Jesus tells us that if you don't do it, then you don't believe it; if you don't do it then you haven't heard it or seen it. It's only when we start to actually put his teaching into practice that we can truly believe, in our hearts, what we say we believe all along in our heads. We can't be “theoretical Christians”. In the words of James, “If good works do not accompany faith, it is quite dead”. If there is no change in us then the world isn't changed; Christ's teaching just lives on in the pages of the Bible: nothing happens, the book is closed, there is a brief moment of admiration perhaps, and then life moves on. But Jesus wants more from us – his desire for his followers is to: “understand with their heart and be converted and be healed by me”. The incarnation means the word became flesh and Jesus wants his teaching to become a lived reality, to become enfleshed in our world, to leap out from the page and into our lives.

Can we open our eyes and ears to Christ, the master teacher? Can we experience our own eureka moment – putting into practice the teaching of Jesus and thereby experiencing his promise of “life in all its fullness”?