



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: \$754

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of October 27, 2024 – November 2, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 27	10:00	Quentin Kennedy, Sr.	
	12:00	Jacinta+	Sister
Mon. Oct. 28	9:30	Joan+ & Joseph+	Sister
	11:45	Annie & Peter Murphy+	Michael Murphy
Tue. Oct. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Bea & Michael Hanley+	Michael Murphy
Wed. Oct. 30	9:30	Rodrigo Bontuyan+	Family
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Thurs. Oct. 31	9:30	Dominic E. Francisco+	Cezar & Martina Francisco
	11:45	Salvatore DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
Fri. Nov. 1	9:30	Stefania & Jan Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
ALL SAINTS	11:45	Dr. Mark Khan+ & Fr. Dante Venus+	
Sat. Nov. 2	9:30	For All Salituro Family Souls	Enrico Salituro
ALL SOULS' DAY	11:45	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa



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 website

Today's Readings:

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:7-9*

The people shout out in joy, because God has bestowed salvation on them, comforting them in their tears and guiding them so they do not stumble.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 5:1-6*

Christ did not give himself the glory of becoming a high priest. Rather he was chosen, called as God's son, to act for all humans in their relations with God.

Gospel Mark: *10:46-52*

Despite being admonished and asked to stay quiet, Bartimaeus persists in his attempt to seek healing from Jesus, who tells Bartimaeus that his faith has saved him.

“Go, your faith has saved you.”

Illustration

Many of us are planners, and when we set out on a journey we prepare. We research our destination and how we will get there, book our tickets, accommodation and activities, and pack carefully so that we have everything we might need. We organise things so that our journey is smooth, and we take out travel insurance in case it is not. We feel in control, able to manage on our own, powerful. More often than not, things work out because we have done our best to make sure they do and that nothing unexpected happens. When we see other people’s plans fall apart, we may sympathise, but we may also judge. What did they expect? They should have checked their passports months ago! They should have factored in traffic delays! They shouldn’t have signed up for such a risky activity! Life is often spoken of in terms of a journey, and specific periods within a life are often spoken of in terms of journeys too. The difference between the journeys we plan and the journey of life – and the smaller journeys that comprise it – is that there is a limit to how much we can control in life. We can work hard to enhance our opportunities, we can nurture our relationships to enhance our personal happiness, we can eat well and exercise to enhance our health. But we cannot always insure ourselves against obstacles on that journey – be they “failure”, illness, bereavement, war, natural disaster, powerlessness.

Gospel Teaching

Today’s scripture readings are about the journey of life and the shorter journeys within it. In Jeremiah and in the psalm, we hear that the people’s journey was far from smooth. There were tears, suffering, and captivity, but Jeremiah tells of God’s promise to comfort and guide them, and the psalm sings of the marvels God has worked for the people. In the Gospel, Bartimaeus is described as “a blind beggar”. His life has not been smooth, and there has probably been little he has been able to do to make it smoother for himself. When he makes noise, he is told to be quiet. He seems powerless and cast aside – someone who should have no right to bother Jesus along the road. But Bartimaeus has faith in Jesus and persists. He calls Jesus “Master” and asks Jesus to let him see again. Jesus tells him that his faith has saved him, and Bartimaeus follows Jesus along the road. And while this story is one of physical healing, it is also one of choice. Bartimaeus, who had little power on his own, has chosen to have faith in Jesus, and that faith seems to be crucial to his healing. When his sight is restored, he chooses to follow Jesus on a path of discipleship. You might even say the story is as much about the call to follow Jesus as it is about healing.

Application

When we feel we are in control, it is easy to forget our vulnerability and the one thing that can be guaranteed in the journey of life – that it will not always be smooth. There will be plans that come to fruition, but there will also be pain, suffering, loss and rejection. Some of the journeys that comprise our life’s journey may be about little more than pain – loss of our health, our independence, our home or our loved ones. It is at times like these that our planning and our going it alone will take us only so far, and we are faced with our own vulnerability and powerlessness.

It is also at times like these that we realise we are not alone, however, and that we have been given both the gift and the choice of faith. Just as the God Jeremiah describes was there to comfort the people and guide them by a smooth path to streams of water, and just as Jesus was there to restore Bartimaeus’ sight, so we can believe that God is present to guide us on our journey – to comfort and strengthen us when the path is not smooth. Moreover, the gift and the call to faith and discipleship that Bartimaeus demonstrated are not just about the individual who needs picking up. We are a people of faith, called to follow Jesus’ example in community. It is in that togetherness that we follow the will of God, lifting each other up according to need as we journey through life, experiencing for ourselves and sharing with others the healing power of faith.

Living the Word