



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: \$815

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

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of November 3, 2024 – November 9, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 3	10:00	Rosario Ambulo+	Rosanne Ambulo
	12:00	Virginia & Braulio Monroy+	Richard & Lydia
Mon. Nov. 4	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
Tue. Nov. 5	9:30	Grace+ & Veronica+	Cousin
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Wed. Nov. 6	9:30	Souls in Purgatory	Beatrice
	11:45	Janina Mojak+	Richard & Lydia
Thurs. Nov. 7	9:30	World Peace	Beatrice
	11:45	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
Fri. Nov. 8	9:30	Mary Ann Gentile+ & Paola Coral (Liv.)	Michael Sicatella
	11:45	Jack LaGreca+ Paul LaGreca	
Sat. Nov. 9	9:30	Mary Ann Gentile+ & Paola Coral (Liv.)	Michael Sicatella
	11:45	Conversion of Sinners	Beatrice

Today’s Readings: *First reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Second reading: Hebrews 7:23-28 *Christ’s power to save is utterly certain.*

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 *Jesus gives us the two great commandments.*

NOTE: Would you like to serve as a lector in our weekly masses?

Please contact Fr. Austin Ochu at 201-567-0450 Ext 225



Scan QR code
to visit our
website

SYMPATHY.- Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Fr. Marc Nkulu, SMA and family on the passing of his sister, Clementine Nkulu. May the soul of Clémentine Nkulu rest in peace.



“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Illustration

Modern life gives us access to lives and communities we might once have known only through the memoirs of intrepid travellers. Now we just switch on the television or the internet and anything, anyone or anywhere is laid out before us. It is a pity if we treat remote, indigenous societies superficially and unthinkingly, as passing examples of how other peoples live, for they often teach and challenge us. This is particularly true when we are introduced to groups of people whose lives might appear exotic and less complicated than ours; what we might miss is how coherent and caring they are. They cultivate a symbiotic relationship with the nature that surrounds them. Their hierarchies exclude nobody from their care and concern unless someone commits infractions which breach the unwritten laws and practices of the community. Everyone has a role to play in the life of the group. That is how they survive. Strangers in their midst receive particular care because people recognise that they will be vulnerable in a world that can be dangerous. Perhaps these patterns of mutual support are easier to maintain in small communities, but their success challenges our assumptions that our more sophisticated approach to living is thereby more civilised. One suspects the opposite is often true.

Gospel Teaching

As Jesus comes to the end of his public career, he rounds up his teaching by having final exchanges with his old adversaries, the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. In St Matthew’s Gospel this discussion takes place with a Pharisee. Here, it is with a scribe. His message is the same. When you examine the Law, the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, the instructions that stand out are these two great commandments: the love of God and the love of our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus has attempted to illustrate, through his life and teaching, how these two commandments may be lived out in practice. His criticism of his adversaries is that they say one thing and do another. They don’t necessarily carry out these commands themselves, but they load up their listeners with a variety of rules that bear little relationship to these more fundamental principles of life. His critics are judgmental rather than compassionate, imposing burdens rather than healing or heartening. Jesus offers a life of service which lifts burdens, restores and nourishes in both word and deed. To see and practise this is to be close to the kingdom of God, that is, to be a channel of God’s loving presence in the world. Sometimes people feel uncertain about how to love themselves, but Jesus’ life reveals the intimate link between the love of self and of our neighbour. We shouldn’t exploit our neighbour or mistreat ourselves. Our concern and respect for our neighbour help give a true form to the concern and respect we have for ourselves.

Application

In the Synod held last year in Rome the concluding synthesis document concentrated less on the subjects that had been discussed and more on how they had been considered by what they termed “the synodal path”. What had been important was the careful listening and exchange of views between lay, religious, clerical and episcopal voices. Theologically, this approach was founded upon the trinitarian nature of God and the lived experience of these two great commandments. The Synod document reflected on the individual concerns that had been raised but did so, not as edicts, but as matters for further reflection, hoping that the synodal process might be adopted by individual episcopal conferences, dioceses, parochial and other groups and might become the way we tackle all issues in our Christian lives. It is a bold challenge, but it is rooted in the great commandments. If we cannot practise them in the way we discuss, codify and guide our faith, how can we be sure we have remained on the right track? The trickling down of this approach to the local level will take time, and the pace will differ across countries and local communities. Some may find the synodal approach threatening and others will be impatient to move on faster. The synodal process aims to find ways in which all the diverse groups feel respected, heard and freed in their faith to practise more fully these two great commandments.

Living the Word

MASS INTENTIONS BOOK— The book for announced Masses for 2025 is open.

REMEMBER! HOLY HOUR: Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 8pm—Rosary at 7:30pm