



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: \$885

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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of October 13, 2024 – October 19, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 13	10:00	Elaine Ong (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
	12:00	Thomas & Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph
Mon. Oct. 14	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Dec. Members of the Guiney Family	
Tue. Oct. 15	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Rosalba Vasquez+	Family
Wed. Oct. 16	9:30	Cary John Palette	Celeste Bufano & Stephen Jerry
	11:45	Special Intentions of the Quinn Family	
Thurs. Oct. 17	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Isolina & Anselmo Allaix+	Diana Colon
Fri. Oct. 18	9:30	Rosalba Vasquez+	Family
	11:45	Maureen Portmann+ 79 Birthday, Tom Peltier Health	Michelle Supper
Sat. Oct. 19	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Billy Hickey+	Angela & Family

Today’s Readings:

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

Wisdom is a precious gift that is given to us when we pray; it is to be valued above all else.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is a word of subtle power and reveals us to the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

Discipleship comes at a cost, involving sacrifice and suffering. We need the power of God in order to be saved.



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 website

“Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.”

Illustration

On the reverse of the US dollar bill is a mysterious symbol: an unfinished pyramid, topped by an eye in a triangle, from which rays emanate. The explanation given is that the thirteen tiers of the pyramid represent the original number of States in the Union; the eye represents the omniscience of God, and the rays the omnipotence of God; the triangle is symbolic of the Trinity. The symbol on the dollar bill appears in various forms in both Renaissance art and in Masonic representations — and has given rise to numerous conspiracy theories. There is, however, universal agreement that at its core is the idea that God (or “Providence”) sees everything. We read in Psalm 33 (v. 18) “The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him”, so the notion that God sees all is not new. What does the all-seeing eye of God mean for us Christians?

Gospel Teaching

“Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him”. In this statement, as so often in the Gospels, we understand that Jesus sees with his eyes, with his heart and with his soul. Jesus can see beyond the surface, to the true nature and intentions of others — whether he is addressing the Pharisees as hypocrites or describing Nathaniel as a “man without guile”. Jesus saw the piety of the young man, his good intentions, his naiveté and his conflicted heart. So here, echoing Psalm 33, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear [respect] him. And the gaze of the Lord is benign. Jesus challenges the young man to the next level of faith — letting go of the idea he can earn his own salvation; he must abandon his wealth — his security — to rely more radically on the power of God to save. Here, as elsewhere, the benign gaze of the Lord discerns, and seeks to help, those willing to accept the will of God. The young man went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth; but even as all his material needs were met, his spirit was hungry. Jesus held up, as it were, a mirror to his spiritual emptiness.

The gaze of the Lord is benign, just as it is also discerning: the Lord sees us just as we are, in our weakness and in our loveliness, in our failure and in our success. So, we do not fear the scrutiny of the Lord — we know his gaze is a loving gaze, seeking to know us, to affirm us, and to save us. Our familiarity with the four Gospels sometimes dulls our perception of the radical nature of the teaching of Jesus — “he looked steadily at the young man and loved him”. The Lord who can see us to the deepest level of our being still loves us! The gaze of the Lord is benign, discerning, and challenging. When we see ourselves through his eyes, we see what is beautiful, what is in his image, and also what is in need of forgiveness, radical nature healing. So, knowing we are in this gaze, we are challenged to become our better self, to become the holy people we are created to be. Just as the gaze of God is benign, discerning and challenging, it is also saving — we are not simply passive recipients of a passing glance of the Almighty — we are drawn further into a relationship that saves us, makes us whole, welcomes us into heaven. How wonderful this is!

Application

The all-seeing eye of God is for our benefit. If we can live knowing that we have a God who watches over us, wills us constantly to be wonderful, forgives us when we fail, inspires us when we don’t know our next step, encourages us to be a better neighbour, wants us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus — then little by little, day by day, our life will be transformed. In practical terms, we can audit our efforts, track our progress — even if it is just for one week — we can watch, notice and even record how we behave conscious, we are in the benign, discerning, challenging and saving gaze of God.

Being in the watchful, all-seeing eye of God is not a solitary experience — we are conscious of being in a community, a communion of people whom the Lord is seeking to shape into a body that testifies to God’s love, that is a light to the nations, an inspiration to all.

Living the Word