



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: \$846

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of October 20, 2024 – October 26, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 20	10:00	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. Oct. 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Victor Bontuyan+	Family
Tue. Oct. 22	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Michael Murphy (Liv.) & Annie Murphy+	Wedding Anniversary
Wed. Oct. 23	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Diana Colon (Liv.)	John Tietjen
Thurs. Oct. 24	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Mary Ann Gentile+ Paola Coral (Liv.)	Michael Sicatella
Fri. Oct. 25	9:30	Mary Ann Gentile+ Paola Coral (Liv.)	Michael Sicatella
	11:45	Maureen Bonacci+	Her Husband Eugene Bonacci
Sat. Oct. 26	9:30	Fr Peter J. Donohoe+ Donohoe Family members+	Marian Landers
	11:45	Ignacio Imperial Jr+	Buen Labay



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 website

Today’s Readings:

First reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

Isaiah prophecies that it is Jesus, the suffering servant, who will be our saviour.

Second reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

From this reading we can take comfort and find confidence that Jesus is not remote from us but has shared and felt our weaknesses.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Jesus tells his disciples not to argue about who is the most important of them but to imitate him in his service to others.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Illustration

There was a missionary priest, let's call him Fr John to save his embarrassment, who began his homily at Mass by asking the congregation to imagine they are members of a selection panel interviewing job applicants to help a young rabbi from Nazareth. The first applicant is a big fellow named Simon who is a bit clumsy and ill at ease. Someone says, “Open a window, there's a strong smell of fish”. Simon goes out and is crossed off the list. A furtive-looking fellow comes in: he's Matthew, a tax collector and collaborator with the Romans, so he's no good either. As Matthew goes out there's shouting and the sound of blows in the corridor. A wild-eyed man comes in, sheathing a knife he just drew in a vain attack on Matthew. This fellow is called Simon the Zealot and wants to fight the Romans. Clearly, he's too unstable for the job. And so on with the rest of the applicants; we reject them all but one. He has good qualifications and is called Mr Iscariot. After Mass, as Fr John was greeting the people and feeling very pleased with himself, one of the parishioners stopped by him, sniffed, looked at his watch and said, “Thank goodness there were only twelve of them”. Fr John's proud bubble burst.

Gospel teaching

One of the images Fr John used in his homily links to our Gospel today. To give it a bit of dramatic licence, he used Matthew's account of James and John's bid for power, rather than Mark's version which we've just read. Into the interview room comes a fiery little lady dragging two hulking lads who blush with embarrassment and look down sheepishly at the floor while their mother demands executive jobs for her boys. In real life, all three Gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke, describe the rest of the disciples squabbling with the brothers and among themselves as if to say, “Why should you get preferment? I'm just as good”. We could imagine Jesus sighing and saying, “Have I been with you so long and you still don't understand?” He explains to them that they are to serve and not to be served. He is Lord but he doesn't lord it over anyone: he is the Servant King. He asks them and us as well to imitate him. The problem of Church people looking for power didn't end with the apostles. We've only to listen to Pope Francis' warnings to the clergy. Don't look for a career in the Church. If you want to be a climber, take up mountaineering, it's much healthier. And of course, it doesn't just apply to the clergy: there's always a temptation for any Church members with a little authority to let it go to their heads.

Application

I introduced today's Mass by saying it was World Mission Day. For many of us the idea of a World Day of anything may be so vague as to have little meaning. If you look on the internet, you'll find dozens of World Days for any number of odd things. There's a World Hypnotism Day and a World Introvert Day, which sounds like a contradiction in terms, a World Sleep Day and a World Porridge Day. Perhaps one we might all relate to, a World Smile Day, is the first Friday of October and happened to fall this year (2024) on the fourth, which is also the feast of St Francis of Assisi, who would make anyone smile.

But World Mission Day calls us to some deeper thoughts. Jesus sent his disciples to bring his Good News to the ends of the earth. We can pray for those missionaries who go to so many places to do just that. And we can pray, too, for our brothers and sisters who have heard the Good News and have thriving parishes where they show the love of Jesus to others. And as we are a part of the world, the Mission Day applies to us as well. Our mission is to show that same love of Jesus to the people around us who don't know it or haven't seen it.

Some of us are worried that we're not very good with words and we can't explain things. When a mother looks at her baby, words mean nothing between them, but the love is evident. We can take courage in a saying attributed to St Francis, “Preach the Gospel at all times: use words if you have to.”

Living the Word

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