



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: \$759

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of October 6, 2024 – October 12, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Oct. 6	10:00	Rean Quito+ Oscar Virtucio+	
	12:00	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana & Joseph
Mon. Oct. 7	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Dec. Members of the Guiney Family	
Tue. Oct. 8	9:30	Nestor Ambulo (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
	11:45	Special Intentions Jeryl Maglio (Liv.)	Victoria Costa
Wed. Oct. 9	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Babacia+	Patricia
Thurs. Oct. 10	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Jane Dunn+	Martha Paladino
Fri. Oct. 11	9:30	Michael R. Desrochers+	
	11:45	Gloria LaGreca+	Paul LaGreca
Sat. Oct. 12	9:30	Memory of Joseph Choi & Mariana Cho+	Juliana & Joeph Family
	11:45	Naciansino Bontuyan+	Family

Today’s Readings: *First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24*

God did not create human beings to be solitary creatures. We are part of creation; part of one another.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Jesus is part of our human family, too. Having experienced suffering and death as all people do, Jesus now shares his divine life with us.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Jesus upholds marriage as a sacred bond and affirms children for their natural qualities of trusting innocence and affection.

Holy Hour—Next Saturday, October 12 at 8:00pm - Rosary at 7:30pm

“Let the little children come to me.”

Illustration

Charles Dickens was one of the most famous novelists of all time. If his plots and characters were believable, it was because they were drawn from life. His aim was not just to entertain, but to stir the conscience of Victorian England. Through storytelling, Dickens brought people’s personal struggles to the awareness of those who might never have known what it was to be poor or vulnerable. Certain scenes from Dickens’ novels still have power to move. Who could forget the words of Oliver Twist, the hungry orphan bullied into asking for a second bowl of gruel? “Please Sir, I want some more!” he pleads in his childish innocence, a request which Mr Bumble, the workhouse master, considers gross impertinence. Being labelled a rebel sets in motion a downhill spiral for poor little Oliver, and he sinks further and further towards destitution. After a grim period sleeping among the coffins as apprentice to an undertaker, Oliver meets the Artful Dodger and falls into the hands of a gang of pickpockets. Dickens’ message was this: that criminality is not inbred. It is the consequence of society’s neglect.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus had been saying the same thing nearly two thousand years before. There were few support networks in ancient Palestine for anyone who fell on hard times. Many did, and women and children were especially vulnerable. Begging, prostitution, or enslavement were the likely fate of children left orphaned, or wives whose husbands abandoned them. People took the view that if you had nothing, you were nothing; worse still, that somehow you deserved it. Jesus grieved for marginalised people. He cured lepers of their disfiguring infections and insisted they be reinstated into the local community. He befriended a hated tax collector. He included several unattached women in his following, such as Mary Magdalene who suffered serious mental illness. Lowest of the low were children. Jesus made a point of pausing to put an arm around them and lay his hands on their heads in blessing. People matter, and they mattered to him. In today’s Gospel, we hear him challenge the undisputed right of a husband to cast off his wife. He expresses indignation that his disciples should chase children away. Jesus did more than care. The littlest, the last, and the least might be held up by him as models of discipleship. He pointed out a poor widow in the Temple as an example of generosity; he commended a prostitute for her loving heart. In today’s Gospel, he went so far as to say that we need to become like children in our enthusiasm for God and God’s ways. Did he mean to say good children? Those were not his words! Jesus seemed unconcerned whether those who came to him for blessing were well behaved. What mattered was how much they wanted to be with him.

Application

We can imagine the kind of children the disciples shoo-ed away. There were many street children in Jesus’ day, homeless and orphaned, such as one might encounter in the back streets of some cities even today. Any grown-up might consider them a nuisance ... jostling their way to the front of the crowd... stretching out a grubby hand ... calling out ... vying for attention. Was Jesus seriously suggesting that we look to such as these for inspiration? If so, his disciples were surely scandalised! Jesus’ teaching still has power to shock. Though he never encouraged anyone to be selfish or ill-mannered, he nevertheless makes it clear that impeccable conduct is not enough to qualify anyone for the Kingdom of God. Jesus appeals to the natural child within us all whose deepest desires are incapable of disguise. Do we gaze adoringly on Jesus like the street children of his day? Do we fearlessly call upon his name, beg more of his Spirit, breathlessly tumble out our needs in prayer?

What matters is how hungry we are for God’s love; how eagerly we place God at the centre of our lives; how affectionate and trusting we are towards one another. Jesus commends to us, not the conformity of a perfect child, but the natural exuberance of the lovable little ones who were bursting to get close to him.. No one is ever turned away who holds out an empty heart for God to fill with love... nor is it impertinent to ask for more!

Living the Word



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