



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
 Tenafly, NJ 07670  
 Phone: 201-567-0450  
 Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://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. Austin Ochu

201-567-0450 Ext. 225

**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. Austin Ochu

201-567-0450 Ext. 225

Thank you for your support.

**Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan, SMA**  
 Provincial Superior

**Fr Austin Ochu, SMA**  
 House Superior

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Masses for the week of December 1, 2024 – December 7, 2024**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. Dec. 1	10:00	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	12:00	Mauricia Bontuyan+	Family
Mon. Dec. 2	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Mary Naughton+	John Lawler
Tue. Dec. 3	9:30	Buen Labay (Liv.)	Family
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Wed. Dec. 4	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Ernest Ascrate (liv.)	Erly Cortez
Thurs. Dec. 5	9:30	Lutgardo Atienza+ & Esther Atienza+	Family
	11:45	Theresa Tietjen+	John Tietjen
Fri. Dec. 6	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Family	
	11:45	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Sat. Dec. 7	9:30	Juliana Lee (Birthday) Living	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Spec. Int. Steover & Mongiello Family	



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 website

**Today's Readings:**  
**First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16**  
*Jeremiah prophesies that the Messianic era is coming, and God will save the people of Israel.*  
**Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**  
*Paul encourages the Thessalonians to live ever more deeply the Good News they have received, remembering that his teaching comes from Jesus.*  
**Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**  
*Jesus tells the disciples that the cataclysmic end-times are a sign that the Son of Man brings liberation; they must be on their guard, pray, and be confident before him.*

***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”***

***Illustration***

*“Shock and Awe” in one form or another has long been a feature of warfare. An academic definition calling the idea “rapid dominance” from the mid 1990s proposed several elements essential to this military tactic: a thorough knowledge of one’s enemy and the state of their deployment; swift, precise attack; excellent operational execution; and keeping complete control of the situation so the enemy has little chance of successful resistance. The result is that the other side is overwhelmed, feels helpless and believes that resistance is useless, and therefore the seeming inevitability of defeat leaves morale low.*

*The cataclysmic Last Days that Jesus is prophesying certainly evoke this sense of shock and awe – the signs will be of dramatic upheaval in nature, whole nations disrupted, and the heavens shaken. Such is the catastrophic backdrop to the arrival of the Son of Man. That the Church gives us this teaching of Jesus at this time of year is to point us to the second, powerful meaning of Advent: the word “advent” means coming, arrival – as in the Our Father’s “May your Kingdom come” – in Latin, “Adveniat regnum tuum”. The first coming referred to is the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, when the Word is made flesh, and we are, of course, preparing to celebrate Christmas. The second is the powerful coming of Jesus in the end times, when he returns in power and glory.*

***Gospel Teaching***

*Jeremiah points forward to the time of the Messiah, framing it as the time of the fulfilment of God’s promise to Israel that salvation will come – a beautiful prophecy that will console the people in times of tribulation. However bad things seem, God will save the people, and will act on their behalf. Jesus is direct: a time is coming where there will be massive upheaval, the like of which people have not seen before; but his message is not that the disciples should be afraid, but that they should see such calamity as a sign of the closeness of their liberation. Jesus urges the disciples, understanding this, to stand with confidence. They will remember this in the terrible time ahead, when their Lord will be tortured and put to death, and they will subsequently learn that in his resurrection, the tumult was a sign that their salvation was indeed near at hand.*

*That Jesus urges the disciples to virtuous living is not so that they will be virtuous as an end in itself, but so that they will be attentive, prepared, not taken by surprise at the return of the Son of Man in glory. They must stay alert, pray for strength – and then stand with confidence.*

***Application***

*Paul seeks to inspire the Thessalonians to follow his example of love, loving each other and loving the whole of humanity. This, he explains, is so that they will be prepared for the return of the Lord. Paul has taken the teaching of Jesus to heart and urges attentiveness so that they will be ready to meet their Lord. The community of believers Paul is addressing are already living an authentic Christian life and he encourages them to continue to progress in that life. What can we do to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord? We are attentive to his presence, looking for him where he is to be found. We begin with where we are now: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in their midst” says Jesus – so he is here amongst us today; our attentiveness to each other is acknowledging him, being attentive to him. Jesus is present in the proclamation of his word – we stand for the Gospel, acknowledging the presence of the Risen Lord. Jesus is present under the form of bread and wine in the Eucharist, a truth we learn from the accounts of the Last Supper and his teaching recorded in chapter 6 of John’s Gospel, where Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Life. We are attentive to Jesus present in those who are in desperate need, as Jesus taught that: “Insofar as you did this [i.e. offered help] to the least of my brothers, you did this to me”. And we are attentive to the presence of Jesus when we address him and listen to him in prayer. Being attentive to the Lord, we will be prepared and able to stand with confidence before the Son of Man when he returns in glory – and when we are called from this life to the eternal life he has promised.*

*Living the Word*

**REMEMBER!**

**HOLY HOUR: December 14, 2024 at 8pm**

**Rosary at 7:30pm**