



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. 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

Sunday Collection: \$799

Thank you for your support.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan, SMA
 Provincial Superior

Fr Austin Ochu, SMA
 House Superior

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
Masses for the week of November 24, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Nov. 24	10:00	Dijohn Caiden Rubio & Kiara Kayla Rubio	
	12:00	Giuseppe & Carmela Salituro	Enrico Salituro
Mon. Nov. 25	9:30	Jan & Zuzana Balascak+	Family
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Tue. Nov. 26	9:30	Mary Ann Gentile+ & Paola Coral (Liv.)	Michael Sicutella
	11:45	Mary Naughton's+ Birthday	John Lawler
Wed. Nov. 27	9:30	Maureen Hamill+	Sister
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Thurs. Nov. 28	9:30	Special Int. Neill & Forgrave Family	
	11:45	Josefina Martinez Thanksgiving	
Fri. Nov. 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Michael Peltier+BD—Thanksgiving Supper Family	
Sat. Nov. 30	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen Hackman
	11:45	Dominador Guinto+	Family

Today's Readings: *First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14*

The kingdom of heaven is eternal and can never be destroyed.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 1:5-8 *Jesus, the beginning and end of all things, welcomes us into his kingdom, excluding nobody from his love.*

Gospel: John 18:33-37 *Jesus' kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. It is everlasting and founded on truth.*

SYMPATHY.- Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Fr. Austin Ochu, SMA and family on the passing of his sister, Mary Ochu. May her soul rest in peace.



May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving filled with peace and joy!

“Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Illustration

If we were to play a game of word association, and we chose the word “king”, it’s likely we’d come up with related words such as “privilege”, “wealth”, “palaces”, “status”, “monarch”, “sovereign”, “power”, and so on. Kings, queens, and members of royal families enjoy lifestyles we can only imagine, and they’re shown a deference few other members of society are afforded. Kings and queens, then, aren’t thought to be like most human beings – if they were, they’d appear “ordinary” and would lose that certain mystery and “otherness” required to maintain their position. It’d seem very odd to bump into a king buying his morning newspaper in the local newsagent’s, or to find yourself having your hair done in the same hairdresser’s as a queen! Royalty, its trappings and status mean “not being like everyone else” in order to enjoy the privilege and prestige that goes with being a monarch.

Gospel Teaching

This image of what it is to be a king, to be “royal”, couldn’t be in starker contrast to the man mockingly called “the King of the Jews” in today’s Gospel: Jesus Christ. How could it be that a king spent his life wandering from town to town, with nowhere to lay his head, never mind owning a palace; who wasn’t respected by political and religious leaders, but was despised by them; who, instead of being a pillar of the establishment, upset the establishment so much they had him crucified between two thieves?

When we read about how Jesus lived and died it’s as far removed as we can get from our idea of monarchy and yet the Church today celebrates the solemnity of “Christ the King”. Christ is King, not because he’s been invested as such by human beings, but by God. Christ is sovereign of the universe because he’s the image, or manifestation, of God, and he created all things; he holds all things together: without him the Universe wouldn’t function. He’s supreme over all things; the first to rise from the dead; who reconciled the world and us to God; the head of his Body, the Church. Jesus’ reign isn’t over a country, or even a continent, but over the whole Universe, because he created it. This has implications for how we treat the world, and in the future, how we treat space. The world, indeed, the Universe, belongs to God. It isn’t ours to do what we like with it. We must, instead, treat it with the respect it deserves as God’s creation, not exploiting it for commercial gain, but sharing its resources for the benefit of all.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus is mercilessly mocked as “King of the Jews”, a title given to Jesus by Pontius Pilate as a way of poking fun at the Jewish leaders. The irony is that not only is he king of the Jews, but king, or Lord, of all creation. Jesus’ idea of kingship and kingdoms subverts our conventional understanding of these terms: his understanding of them has nothing to do with power – he spent his life avoiding that. It’s not about being superior or having immense wealth but, rather, about being of service to our neighbour, putting him or her first whenever necessary. Jesus’ kingdom doesn’t consist of vast swathes of countryside whilst being a kingdom where justice and peace reign. It’s a kingdom for the oppressed, the underprivileged, those without power.

Application

So, Jesus is our king, but we’re more than subjects. We’re his brothers and sisters, members of a Royal Family: God’s family. To see others who are less wealthy, or less privileged, or have a different accent or skin colour from us as being royal, with all the dignity that term implies, means we can’t look down on them, because in God’s kingdom we all have equal value and worth. Whether we’re poor or rich, able-bodied or have a disability, old or young, black or white, God loves us equally.

Over the centuries, history has seen many monarchies, many kings and queens, come and go: their reigns came to an end. Today we celebrate Christ as Universal King, a king whose reign won’t end. Above all, Christ wants to reign in our hearts, and if we let him do so, the world can indeed be transformed into a kingdom of justice, peace and harmony. Today we acknowledge that our God, in Christ, does indeed reign supreme!

Living the Word

Memorial Donation.- The Altar bread and wine and the flowers were donated by Veronica McDonagh as a thanksgiving for 80 years of blessings.

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

NOTE: Would you like to serve as a lector in our weekly masses? Please contact Fr. Austin Ochu at 201-567-0450 Ext 225