

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

Fort Yuma, California, P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283 Tel: 760-572-0283

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
October, 11, 2020

Website: www.stthomasindianmission.org
Email: saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com
Pastor: Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa

Our Sunday Masses are celebrated outdoors, for the time being, on Saturdays at 6:00 PM and on Sundays at 7:30 AM, in the PARKING AREA by the Parish Hall.

Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing (6 feet between people of different households) before, during, and after the Mass. Holy Communion is to be given only after the Final Blessing, in the hand.

Persons with disability, please arrive early so that before the Mass starts you can park your cars on the alley on the side of the church (between the church and Quechan Drive). People of any age with serious underlying medical conditions or are feeling ill in any way are urged, in the strongest sense, to remain at home.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.



The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."
The Gospel of the Lord.

1st Reading:
Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

Our Response:
I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
(Repeat)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. **R.**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. **R.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. **R.**

2nd Reading:
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.
The Word of the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

COME TO THE TABLE WORTHILY.

Today's First Reading and Gospel both speak of a banquet, a feast. The first reading describes a banquet held on a mountaintop, an image of the heavenly banquet at the end of time. Isaiah is telling us God's plan for all of us – God's people from the ends of the earth -- to be called together, for a feast beyond anything we can imagine. This banquet is characterized not just by rich foods and choice wines but especially by the removal of the veil that veils all of us so we can shine like the stars instead of being hidden from each other. God will wipe away all tears and all we are accused of, and death will be no more. There is perfect joy.

Then the Gospel presents us with a parable about a wedding feast. At this feast the feeling is in high contrast to the one in our first reading. The point of the parable is clear: everyone is invited to God's banquet, but to accept the invitation or to show up is not enough. There is something more we are to do to make ourselves ready to participate in the banquet.

If the banquet in the first reading points to the heavenly banquet in the future, the banquet in today's Gospel points to the past and present. Like the parable of the Wicked Tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, the parable in today's Gospel is a thinly veiled accusation of the Jewish leaders of the day who contemptuously refused God's invitation. Today, however, it is a warning for us Christians. The grace of being invited to the Lord's table, then as now, does not excuse us from wearing the appropriate garment --- that is, "putting on" Christ.

In the first centuries of Christianity when there was no law regarding Sunday Mass obligation, every Catholic celebrated Eucharist every Sunday. Eucharist summed up and expressed what it meant to be Christian.

Some Syrian texts from the second century, an era when there were occasional violent persecutions of the Church, give us a conversation between a Roman judge and a group of Christians that he had caught gathering for Mass – a practice which was forbidden then by law. "Why did you gather together on Sunday to worship when you knew it was against the law?" He asked. "We are Christians," was the answer he received. "It is impossible for us to be without the Eucharist." The Eucharist defined who they were, and gave meaning to their lives.

"MY FRIEND . . . HOW IS IT YOU CAME IN HERE NOT PROPERLY DRESSED?"

One may ask: Isn't the king's behavior incredibly harsh? Nevertheless, what indications are there that he is a good and generous man? Why do you suppose he gets picky about attire? How could he expect it from people grabbed off the streets? *It must have been both important and possible.* With that in mind, what do you think the garment or "proper dress" symbolizes regarding us and the spiritual life?

Countless theologians have commented on the meaning of "the wedding garment." The consensus of Catholic scholars is: *conversion, repentance.*

Though sinners were invited to the banquet, they were expected to repent. Just showing up is not enough. Many are called to salvation, but not all will make it to the final election. There is no room for complacency on the part of anyone invited.

In other words, God lavishly provides everything we need for our salvation except the one thing he cannot provide without retracting our free will: ***a sincere heart open for conversion.***

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!

Next week is World Mission Sunday. We are called through our Baptism to be part of the Church's missionary efforts, through prayer, self-sacrifice, and support of the Mission Church through material aid.

This year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to that call, saying, "Here I Am, Send Me!" To "send" ourselves, we can: PRAY for the Church's worldwide missionary work, OFFER financial HELP and CHARITY through the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for vulnerable communities throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.

Several worldwide observances of the Catholic Church have been postponed and rescheduled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, World Mission Day, this year, will be observed as usual on the penultimate Sunday of October, because, "Faith, in fact, by its very nature, is missionary and the celebration of World Mission Day serves to keep this essential dimension of the Christian faith alive in all the faithful."

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, Pope Francis released his message for this year's celebration. Based on a theme taken from the Book of Isaiah, "Here am I, send me", **the Pope's message says that the Covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity for mission and service to others.**

The Mission Sunday envelopes will be distributed to each one after Mass today and will be collected next Sunday. Or you may mail your donation directly to: Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Diocese of San Diego, P.O. Box 82386, San Diego, CA 92138-2386.

How Does Your World Mission Sunday Gift Help?

- \$ 20 assists with renovation of a chapel in the Fiji Islands
- \$ 40 provides support for a catechist in Peru
- \$ 100 supports a sister in Kenya serving among homeless children
- \$ 1,000 can provide a home, food, medical help and education for orphans in Thailand
- \$ 3,500 helps support two girls' homes in Sri Lanka

Where Does your World Mission Sunday Gift Help?

- 1,200 schools, educating children in some of the poorest parts of the world
- 9,000 clinics caring for the sick and dying
- 9,000 religious sisters and brothers in formation programs
- 10,000 orphanages, providing a place of safety and shelter
- 30,000 seminarians preparing for the priesthood

To make a Credit Card donation, please visit:
www.helpthemissions.org

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

One duty of a disciple is to pray for the world. Let us do our duty today and pray for God's will on this earth.

LECTOR:

- 1) For Christian communities everywhere; for our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who feel unaccepted or unworthy due to their circumstances, hardships, or identity, that they may always realize God's inclusive invitation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For a growing respect in society for all human life, from conception to natural death, from the main roads to the dingy alleys, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) We pray for all victims of abortion: for the children who did not live and grow, and for the women who grieve the loss of their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For indigenous peoples around the globe, especially those who have suffered generations of rejection or mistreatment, that they may be treated with respect and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) For those who are homebound or suffering from illness or injury, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

Good and gracious God, hear our prayers this day. Be the light for our lives, our hope when life is difficult, and give us the gift of faith and trust in you. We pray always in Jesus' name. amen.

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS/OBSERVANCES:

Oct. 14, Wed. St. Callistus I, pope and martyr (+222).

Once a slave sentenced to forced labor, Callistus became a deacon and counselor to Pope Zephyrinus, who put him in charge of the first Christian cemetery (San Callisto) in Rome. Callistus was later elected pope and, despite strong opposition, introduced humanitarian reforms. He met a violent death, likely during an uprising against Christians, and was buried on the Via Aurelia. May we work to achieve his desire that "we be all of one mind and that there be no divisions among us."

Oct. 15, Thu. St. Teresa of Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church (1515-1582). Born in Avila, Spain, she entered the Carmelite Convent, where she advanced in prayer and experienced visions. She established St. Joseph Convent, and, with the assistance of Peter of Alcantara and John of the Cross, she founded the reformed (Discalced) Carmelite orders of nuns and friars. A great mystic and a strong and intelligent leader, Teresa wrote several works which are considered classics of spiritual literature, including *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*. May we follow her advice: "Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul."

Oct. 16, Fri. St. Hedwig, religious (1174-1243), born in Bavaria; built a Cistercian monastery for women; peace-maker, dedicated to the poor and prisoners.

Oct. 16, Fri. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque(1647-1690), a French Visitandine mystic who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Oct. 17, Sat. St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr (+107). Born in Syria around the time of Christ's death, was an Apostolic Father known as the second successor of St. Peter in Antioch, where he was bishop for 38 years. He was arrested during the persecution under emperor Trajan, condemned for confessing Christ, and sent to be executed in the Roman Colosseum. On this journey, he wrote seven letters to local communities on church unity and structure, especially the monoepiscopacy. He was the first to use the term "Catholic Church" as a collective designation for Christians. He is mentioned in the Roman canon or Eucharistic Prayer I.

JUST KIDDING!

Two campers are walking through the woods when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing about 50 feet in front of them. The bear sees the campers and begins to head toward them. The first guy drops his backpack, digs out a pair of sneakers, and frantically begins to put them on. The second guy says, "What are you doing? Sneakers won't help you outrun the bear." "I don't need to outrun the bear," the first guy says. "I just need to outrun you."

Teacher: "Why do we say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?" *Smartie:* "The same reason we sing 'Hymns' instead of 'Hers'!"

**AVAILABLE
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **David Duran** to place an ad today!
dduran@4LPi.com or (414) 282-1539

Darren S. Mattice
Funeral Director
Owner

**Yuma
Mortuary**
of Crematory

928.782.9865
775 S 5th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Darren@yumamortuary.com
www.yumamortuary.com

**SOFT CLOTH
CAR WASH**

Ride with pride;
drive a clean car!



900 South 4th Ave
783-3116

**SHADLE &
WHITE**

Trevor T. White
lawoffice@shadlelaw.com
Se habla Español • (928) 783-8321
833 E. Plaza Cir #100 • Yuma, AZ

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts
Business & Contract Law
Real Estate & Property Matters
Probate, Guardianship & Conservatorship
Licensed in AZ & CA

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Masters



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

**catholicmatch[®]
California**



CatholicMatch.com/CA



**WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES**



- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT

careers@4LPi.com • www.4LPi.com/careers

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**

\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 1-855-225-4251

YUMA automotive & transmission SERVICE

Brett Simala 928.783.6111
Stan Simala fax:928.783.2818
841 20th Avenue
yatracng45@hotmail.com Yuma, AZ 85364

www.YumaAutoAndTrans.com

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

*Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered
right to your inbox!*

www.parishesonline.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Saint Thomas Indian Mission Church, Winterhave, CA

A 4C 05-1147