

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1, 2020

Fort Yuma, California | P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283

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**Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor**

Our Sunday Masses are held outdoors, for the time being, in the PARKING AREA, by the Parish Hall, on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 7:30 AM.

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.

Prayer of the Faithful

Celebrant:

The saints in heaven intercede for us with God, who hears every prayer.

Lector:

1) That the worldwide Church will always draw strength and perseverance as exemplified by all the unnamed saints who stayed true to their calling, we pray to the Lord.

2) That leaders of our nation and of other nations may have the wisdom and compassion of the saints who were kings and chancellors and peacemakers, we pray to the Lord.

4) That, inspired by the life of the saints, we may have the courage to advocate and promote political decisions that reflect love for our neighbors, from their conception to their natural death, we pray to the Lord.

5) For God's blessing on Michael Gordon, of a successful surgery to remove lung cancer, as well as speedy recovery, we pray to the Lord.

6) For God's blessing on Lilly and Alfredo Campa — especially of healing after the loss of their only daughter Kate, to cancer, we pray to the Lord.

7) For all deceased relatives and friends who are included in the All Souls Day novena of Masses, we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Living and true God, you are our strength and our refuge. Hear our prayers which we make through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

1st Reading:

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel. After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

Response:

**Lord, this is
the people
that longs to
see your face.**

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

R. Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

R. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Alleluia, alleluia. Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, And I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

2nd Reading:

1 John 3:1-3

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure. **The Word of the Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD GUIDEPOSTS

DISCIPLES: A COMMUNION OF SAINTS

This year, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Sunday. The feast overtakes the readings for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time by proclaiming scripture readings unique to it.

In brief, today's readings say: Nobody can count the number of those in heaven (first reading). We are children of God already now; what that entails we will see only later. In any case we will be like God (second reading). We will be blessed if we come up to the ideal of the beatitudes (gospel).

As we read in Revelation (today's first reading), those who come through to the reign of God are those "who have survived the time of great distress." The time of great distress did not end with the early church persecutions. It continues today. We live a whole array of 21st-century challenges to the establishment of the reign of God on this earth.

Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes that we heard in the Gospel, if applied to our day, will "knock our socks off," as we try to live his call with integrity.

Consider: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." How can we bring that to bear on our lives in a society that prizes "wealth management" above the sharing of our resources with those in need? To be poor in spirit requires a humble recognition that one's life must be lived in radical dependence on the goodness and providence of God.

Consider: "Blessed are they who mourn." Do we truly mourn and take action when violence impacts our community; when killing becomes acceptable at all stages of life? Mourning is in dying to ourselves for others to live, that we rise to new life and to the fundamental meaning of dying and living in Christ.

The apostle John says we now are "children of God," and in the world to come "we shall see him as he is." "All who have this hope," he says, strive to live their lives with the integrity and single-mindedness of Christ.

All of us are saints-in-progress, called to bring the reign of God to the 21st century.

Sainthood would seem to be a very exclusive club, but the communion of saints is actually much larger than just the saints formally recognized and declared by the Catholic Church as saints and assigned feast days. This day belongs to those who enjoy the reward of their loyalty to God, but have gone without notice. John's vision in Revelation of an uncountable multitude gives a good picture of those in the presence of the Lord for eternity. With the exception of Mary, none of them were perfect. All were sinners, but they made a choice to be loyal to God rather than to their comfort.

Sanctity is not solely the monopoly of the Catholic Church. Whenever anyone chooses an action reflecting God's love and directed toward God's goodness, holiness flourishes.

We will falter on our Christian path, but it will be our willingness to keep on trying, to stay loyal despite our failures that will be rewarded. Today we honor those who have been loyal and who offer encouragement for the rest of us to stay loyal despite so many reasons not to. Each and every one of us can aspire to this outcome. For all we know, there may be thousands of saints for every saint who has actually been canonized. We are all called to be saints, so let us strive to be holy in our nevertheless ordinary lives.

Jesus is teaching the Beatitudes. The word *beatitude* means "blessed" or "happy." I would recommend that we stop and think a little deeper and ask ourselves, "Indeed, following the Beatitudes, are we grateful for the things that most of us would want to reject?"

The people in our lives who are difficult, the circumstances that we do not like, the things that we find to be quite a pain that we have to endure and that we do not like, we really need to be genuinely grateful for those things because they are the things that purify our faith, as well as our patience, our meekness, our charity, our hope and all the other virtues, as today's gospel tells us, those are the things that make us saints – blessed.

This message is reflected in the song Day by Day (by Godspell in 1973) which in its original form was a prayer ascribed to St. Richard (1197-April 3, 1253), bishop of Chichester, England, when, at his deathbed, he prayed thus:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me,
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother.

May I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly.

SYNOPSIS

The Book of Revelation teaches that following Christ does not protect or insulate us from suffering.

Those who suffer for their faith will be as helpless as Jesus who hung on the cross. Like Jesus, God will sustain us through the worst.

Today we honor those who have been loyal and who offer encouragement for the rest of us to stay loyal despite so many reasons not to.

Genuine success comes from living according to God's values.



All Souls' Day Novena

 St. Michael's
Catholic Community

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES PRAYERFULLY VIA THE ALL SOULS DAY NOVENA

I start today (by myself) the novena of Masses (nine consecutive Masses) for the faithful departed. If you want to include your deceased relatives in the novena, we have envelopes available on which you write their names and in which you place your donation/offering.

According to the norms governing novena Masses, the priest is permitted to retain a \$10 stipend for each Mass offered during the novena. Any amount exceeding the \$10 stipend for each Mass of the novena is to be given to a designated charity. It is not to be used for parish maintenance. In my case, I also opt to give to a designated charity the stipend that I am permitted to retain. I give it in the name of or as the charity of, the faithful departed that I say Mass for.



We have just received a message from *AmazonSmile* that our parish is generating a donation of \$14.86 through the *AmazonSmile* program. In the name of the parish, a heartfelt thanks to the donor. To all who purchase goods from Amazon:

- Amazon Smile will contribute .5% of your purchases to St. Thomas Indian Mission if you do the following:
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Our Post-Pandemic Schedule:

Please don't forget that, God willing, when the threat of Covid-19 is gone, when the situation is stabilized or back to normal, when we will be given the go-ahead to use our Church as before, the Schedule that we will immediately follow will be as follows:

Sunday Masses (We follow Arizona Time):

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 9:30 AM

Holy Hour/Private Adoration before the Exposed Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

Sunday 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM

Confessions:

Saturday 3:45 PM to 4:15 PM

Sunday 8:45 AM to 9:15 AM

For Baptism & Marriage Requirements, please visit our website.

Note: Our Church is CLOSED on weekdays. Tourists and sightseers may visit our Church when it is open on Saturday afternoons and/or Sunday mornings, as long as they observe proper visiting manners.

LECTORS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Requirements:

First of all, the Lector or Minister of Holy Communion must be a practicing Catholic, that is to say, among other things, that the person is living a life in good standing with the Catholic Church, regularly attends Sunday Mass, and is able to receive Holy Communion.

Moreover,

The **Lector** is expected to come to Mass prepared, that is to say, has read beforehand and, in a prayerful manner, all the readings. This is the reason we now assign as much as possible three lectors for a Mass so that in the event that only one or two of the assigned lectors are present, the one present will cover for the others. If all three are present, **Lector 1** proclaims the first reading and responsorial psalm; **Lector 2** proclaims the second reading and alleluia; **Lector 3** leads the Prayer of the Faithful.

The two **Ministers of Communion's** spiritual preparation is their personal encounter with the Risen Lord at the Holy Hour. One of them will expose the Blessed Sacrament at the beginning of the Holy Hour and the other will repose it at the close of the Holy Hour.

JOKE ONLY:

In a divorce court a woman requested the judge: "Your honor, I want to divorce my husband." "But why?" asked the judge. She replied, "Because he is not faithful to me." The judge asked, "How do you know?" She replied, "Your honor, not a single child resembles him."

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