

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

32nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time, A
November 8, 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 Lord wants us to be ready for his coming. With confidence, we pray.

Our response:

Lord, make us your faithful servants.

Lector:

1) That we may value the kingdom of God as our greatest treasure and think of heaven as our true home, for on this earth we have no lasting city, we pray: **(R)**

2) That bishops, priests, religious, deacons, Catholic parents and teachers, show, by word and example, the primacy of God's kingdom over everything else, we pray: **(R)**

3) For the women and men we elected this past week to public office, that God may watch over them as they assume their responsibilities, we pray: **(R)**

4) That the veterans who give service to our country receive the honor and appreciation they are due, we pray: **(R)**

5) For all those who are included in our ongoing All Souls Day novena of Masses, we pray: **(R)**

6) For God's blessing of healing in body and spirit upon Lilly and Alfredo Campa on the loss to cancer of their only daughter Kate, we pray: **(R)**

7) For God's blessing on Michael Gordon, of a successful surgery to remove lung cancer, we pray: **(R)**

Celebrant: Father, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers, and all those that we hold in the silence of our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

1st Reading:

Wisdom 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude. *The Word of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm:

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R.**

Thus, have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **R.**

Thus, will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **R.**

2nd Reading:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words. *The Word of the Lord.*

Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Mt. 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD GUIDEPPOSTS

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

All of our readings today speak of being watchful. The Lord comes to us in many forms, and we can easily miss him if we are not watchful. Part of being watchful is also seeking, actively seeking God in our daily life.

Our first reading speaks of Wisdom, “resplendent and unfading.” Wisdom is more than being intelligent. It is stronger than that. Wisdom means being prudent and watchful.

Paul (our second reading) is concerned that among the Thessalonians there are some who have no hope, who grieve for those who have died and who fear they will never see them again. He tells them that they should have no fear because those who have died are ahead of us. At the end of time when the Lord comes, those who have already died will rise up with Christ and those still alive rise to be “caught up in the clouds together with [the dead] to meet the Lord in the air, and so will be with the Lord forever.”

Then Paul tells the Thessalonians to encourage one another. This is where wisdom can help us. It does not mean that we should not grieve at the loss of our beloved, but rather we can take comfort in the fact that we will be together with them and with the Lord when our own time comes. Both Wisdom and Paul bring comfort and encouragement: Grieve your loss, but remember we will all be together again and with the Lord.

Matthew (today’s gospel) agrees with Paul and Wisdom but goes a bit further. He tells us that, yes, we will be in the heavenly kingdom together, but there is more to it. Then he tells the story of the ten bridesmaids and at the end of the story he says, “Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” Yes, be alert, be watchful, and LIVE WITH HOPE!

WISDOM COMES FROM INTIMACY WITH GOD.

On April 9, 2014, Pope Francis gave a series of teachings on the Holy Spirit to thousands of pilgrims which filled St. Peter’s Square. He started with the Holy Spirit and the gift of wisdom. Then rather abruptly he departed from the text, looked up, and in Francis’ fashion lobbed a question at the crowd: “Imagine a mother running around after her children all day, attending to their every need. Eventually the mother gets tired, loses her patience, and starts scolding her child. Is that wisdom?”

The crowd seemed caught off guard by the question; hardly any response could be heard. Wasting no time, he shot back with his own answer: “No!” Francis then contrasted wisdom with scolding. Wisdom happens when a tired mother takes her child gently aside, addressing the child patiently and lovingly. That is what the wisdom of God look like.

During this teaching Pope Francis offered the Church a definition of wisdom that today we hear unfolding in our

Scriptures. He said: “Wisdom is precisely the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It “comes from intimacy with God . . . from the relationship children have with their [heavenly] Father.”

Today we are invited to grow in wisdom:

1) to see God as God is, 2) to see the world, ourselves, and one another through God’s eyes, and 3) to live accordingly.

STAY AWAKE!

“Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour,” may have been repeated quite frequently in the days and years immediately after Jesus’ death and resurrection (Matthew 25:13). The early church assumed that Christ would return very soon.

This was especially true with the Thessalonians during the time of Paul. They believed that the Second Coming was right around the corner. But it wasn’t. Thus, Paul needed to write a letter to them (today’s second reading) to calm their anxieties when that day of the Lord—the *parousia*, was delayed.

An intervening two thousand years has made us complacent. For us, the problem is less that the second coming is delayed than that we’ve often ceased to think about it at all. But like a lucky number in the lottery, the end days are as likely to come tomorrow as they are any other day. Let God-given wisdom give us the urgency we need each and every day.

This past Wednesday (Nov. 4) was the feast of St. Charles Borromeo. I would like to relate an often-cited lovely story about him which brings home the message of “stay awake.”

One evening Charles was playing cards with a few of his friends and the subject got around to death and dying. What would you do, it was asked, if all of a sudden it were revealed that you were going to die this very night? One person said: “I’d run off to confession.” Another said “I’d get down on my knees and pray.” Someone else said: “I would find my lawyer and make sure my will was in good order.” Charles kept silent, continuing to look at his cards. Eventually, remarking on his lack of response, his friends asked him what he would do. “I’d continue to play cards,” was his reply. He was ready at any time.

When we hear today’s parable of the ten bridesmaids, we think the ones who brought enough oil were being very selfish. But instead of thinking of 10 bridesmaids, let’s think of 10 students going in

to class and the teacher is about to have a pop quiz. Five of the students had been studying all along and knew the material. The other five had been partying and cutting class or sleeping through the lectures. The five prepared students couldn't suddenly transmit their knowledge to the other five.

The oil represents something intangible. It represents for example a relationship with God which must be personally developed and which cannot just be given to someone else any more than any close relationship can.

Someone once wrote an article entitled: God has no grandchildren. We either have a relationship with God as son or daughter or we do not. We cannot have a relationship with God because someone else we know or we're related to does. We have to have it for ourselves. What our Lord is telling us is that whatever will get us into the party is intangible, something each of us has to acquire for ourselves.

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.

Parishioners' Contributions Counted and Deposited:

Oct. 17-18, 2020....\$ 2,600.00

Oct. 24-25, 2020.... \$ 596.00

Oct. 2020 online giving: \$ 1,490.00



We urgently need an increase in Sunday Contributions. A total of \$ 8,983.36 is automatically debited monthly from our bank account, by the diocese. Every so often we have to resort to withdrawing from our funds on deposit with the diocese.

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 all the readings prior and meditated on them. 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 immediately preceding the Mass. One of them will expose the Blessed Sacrament at the beginning of the Holy Hour and the other will repose it at the end of the Holy Hour.

We invite those who meet the above qualifications to commit to our pool of lectors and/or extraordinary ministers of Communion, not as a condition for parish membership but as an expression of growth or progress in spiritual life, of intimacy with God. Thus, it is not to be seen as a ministry for the sake of the pastor or the parish but solely for the greater honor and glory of God.



You can also help our parish when you purchase goods from Amazon:

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