

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe**  
November 22, 2020

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

**Website:** [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org)

**Email:** [saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com](mailto:saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com)

**Tel: 760-572-0283**

**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 9:30 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.

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."  
*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## **Ist Reading:**

**Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17**

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly. As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. *The Word of the Lord.*

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:**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28**

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. *The Word of the Lord.*

## **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel:**

**Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21**

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him and say,

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

**R.**

Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

**R.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you

## **Acclamation**

When we eat this Bread,  
and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death,  
O Lord, until you come  
again.

## REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . . GUIDEPOSTS

### A DIFFERENT KING

Today we honor Christ as our King. Our Scripture readings do not picture him as a typical king.

In our First reading, Ezekiel, the prophet, pictures God as a shepherd. God was so disgusted with the kings and religious leaders of Judah because they led God's people away from the authentic practices of their faith which precipitated the fall of Jerusalem and the exile. God said that He himself would become the shepherd of the people. It was a message of hope for the exiles, and it remains a message of hope for us. We see this prophecy perfectly fulfilled in Jesus.

In our second reading, Paul, writing to the Corinthians, steps away from the idea of a shepherd and describes Christ as being raised from the dead and ultimately raising all from the dead. When all that is evil is destroyed, Christ will give back to God his Father the kingdom and all of us who belong to him.

In the gospel, Jesus is pictured as a judge. He will come on the Last Day to judge us. He will decide on that final day who will or will not share his kingdom forever.

**Thus, we have three images of Christ the King:  
a shepherd, the risen Lord, and the judge of all nations.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The term "kingdom" is derived from the Aramaic (the native tongue of our Lord) word "*malkuth*" which literally translates into English as the "reign." It implies not just a place or domain but God's active rule or dominion that permeates a person's heart from which his motives, values and attitudes originate. Hence, Christ's teaching, "The kingdom of God is within you."

We, post resurrection followers of Jesus, are lucky people not only because we have understood the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection but especially because he entered into each one of us after the resurrection, that is, at our baptism. He is now in us, not outside us. His voice is there, waiting to be heard and followed by us.

But we need to ask: As we end the present church year, how many times did we really follow the voice of Christ, our King the past year? We may realize that many times this past year our faith in Jesus may have been expressed as follows: YOU ARE MY KING, MY LORD, but I want you to rule on my terms, not yours.

So we ask his pardon and mercy. Thus, when we begin the season of Advent next week, we can enter into its theme which is Penance – Violet. Come Lord, change me.

The truth Jesus teaches in today's parable is reflected in the real-life experience of the conversion of St. Paul. When Paul, before his conversion, was persecuting the Christians and was on the way to Damascus to arrest Christians and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial, Jesus appeared to him in a blinding light. Paul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" Jesus answered, "*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*" What Paul was doing to Jesus' followers, he was doing to Jesus. A powerful image! It is this concept that inspired many saints to dedicate themselves to minister to the poor and suffering. What you do to the least of my brethren you do to me.

\*\*\*\*\*

The story is told about a Roman soldier Martin of Tours who lived in the 3rd century. One cold day as he was entering a city, a beggar stopped him and asked for alms. Martin had no money, and the beggar was shivering with cold. Martin took off his cloak, cut it in two and gave half of it to the beggar.

That night, in a dream, he saw Jesus wearing half of the Roman soldier's cloak. Asked where he got it, Jesus replied, "My servant Martin gave it to me." The story illustrates graphically Christ's words: "whatever you did to the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

\*\*\*\*\*

The story is told that once a reporter called St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta out in front of everyone and said, "Mother, you are seventy years old! When you die, the world will be the same as it was before. What has changed after all your effort?"

Mother Teresa smiled brightly and responded, "Well, I never thought I would be able to change the world! I have only tried to be a drop of clean water in which God's love could sparkle. Does that seem little?"

Then Mother Teresa asked the cheeky reporter, "Why don't you try to be a drop of clean water, and then there will be two of us. Are you married?" "yes, Mother." "Tell your wife as well and then there will be three of us. Have you any children?"

"Three children, Mother." "Tell your children too and then there will be six of us . . ."

*"It is not how much we do . . . but how much love we put in the action"* (St. Mother Teresa).

\*\*\*\*\*

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

A visitor saw a nurse attend the sores of a leprosy patient. "*I would not do that for a million dollars,*" she said. The nurse answered, "*Neither would I, but for Jesus, I do it for nothing.*"

--- Corrie Ten Boom.

The Lord of the Universe, Our King, is hiding in the least of our brothers and sisters. The one power he exhibits is to move our hearts to compassion. He invites us to exercise the power we share with God as his image and likeness--- the power of love — the power to sacrifice ourselves for others.

## GOATS — BEING BLIND TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

The Son of Man comes in kingly glory to judge our lives. Using the sheep as a symbol, we hear the sheep do his bidding. They will inherit the kingdom of God prepared for them.

It's bad news for the goats. They didn't see Jesus in the various opportunities for compassion and care. *When we only think about our own agenda, we are blind to the needs of others.* This is where we can hear our future selves protesting: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" The opportunities are there. The Lord asks us to see them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Christ's parable highlights one important point which Christians often overlook. Those on the left-hand side were condemned not for anything they have done but for things they have NOT done.

There are Catholics who believe, sincerely or otherwise, that as long as they go to church on Sunday, receive communion, and avoid evil, they're good Christians. Their view of life is summed up thus, "I never do any harm to anyone. I go to church. I mind my business."

On the other hand, however, they have done nothing or little that's positively good or helpful to their fellowmen or for society. In line with today's gospel, a saying goes, "*It's not enough to be good, you must be good for something.*"

Do I look for opportunities to be of service to others? Do I support my parish financially and/or by giving a helping hand in parish activities?

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** Let us remember our duty as believers and pray for the whole world.

### Lector:

1.) Let us pray for the church: for those who bring the message of hope to those tempted to despair; who comfort those who are suffering; who make the world a vision of the kingdom of God, we pray:

2.) We pray for our country: for all the virtues necessary for our citizens to live in peace with each other and with all nations of the world, we pray:

3.) For those with Gospel privileges: for those who are hungry, thirsty, without clothing or shelter; the sick, the imprisoned, the refugee, and the stranger, we pray:

4.) We remember those who cannot be with us today; those who are ill or in pain or living with a debilitating condition; those who serve as missionaries; those in the Armed Forces and stationed far away, we pray:

5.) We remember those who have died . . . *(pause for silent prayer)*. For all those who grieve and will especially miss their loved ones on Thanksgiving Day, we pray:

**Celebrant:** Grant us, O Lord, what we need to choose to be members of your kingdom and to live out your Gospel message here on earth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## PARISHIONERS' CONTRIBUTIONS:

Oct. 17, 2020 — Nov. 15, 2020 = \$ 5,557.00

October Online Giving = \$ 1,415.00



## Our Post-Pandemic Schedule:

Please don't forget that, God willing, when the threat of Covid-19 is gone, 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 Catechism, 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

To be assigned as Lector and/or Minister of Holy Communion, one 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, because of the COVID-19 threat, Ministers of Communion must be below 65 years of age and healthy. There is no age limit for Lectors as long as they are healthy and physically able and can approach the ambo without any need of physical assistance.

**Each Lector** is expected to come to Mass prepared, to have read all the readings prior and meditated on them. We now assign as much as possible three lectors for each Mass so that in the event that not all three assigned lectors are present, the one present is prepared to cover for the others. If all three are present, **Lector 1** proclaims the first reading and resp. psalm; **Lector 2** proclaims the second reading and alleluia; **Lector 3** leads the Prayers 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.

## THIS WEEKEND IS THE NATIONALLY DESIGNATED TIME FOR THE COLLECTION FOR NATIONAL NEEDS.

The date is chosen because it falls just before the civil observance of Thanksgiving Day, inviting us to share the gifts for which we give thanks. One way that we are invited to embrace Christ every year at this time is through the Collection for National Needs. Please give generously!

**AVAILABLE  
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR  
BUSINESS HERE**

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

**Yuma  
Mortuary**  
of Crematory

Darren S. Mattice  
Funeral Director  
Owner

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<sup>®</sup>  
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](http://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