

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**Second Sunday
of Lent, Year B
February 28, 2021**

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

Website: www.stthomasindianmission.org

Email: saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com

Tel: 760-572-0283

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

**Our Sunday Masses are now held inside the Church,
on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 9:30 AM.
Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing.**

**PLEASE NOTE: One who is sick or is feeling "under
the weather" is asked to not attend the Mass but
to follow a streamed Sunday Mass at home.**

1st Reading:

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the Lord's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I

will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

**"I will walk before the
Lord, in the land
of the living."**

I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. **R.**

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but

handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died – or, rather, was raised – who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Lector: From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

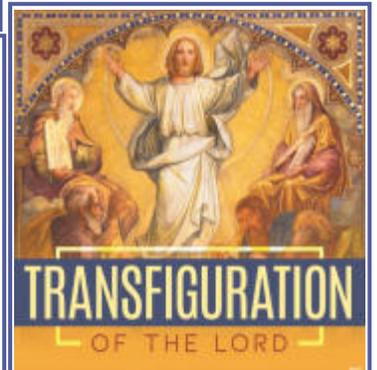
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it

is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord.



The Mystery of Faith:

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

GLIMPSES OF FUTURE GLORY

Last Sunday's Gospel focused on the human nature of Jesus Christ – his susceptibility to hunger, fatigue, and Satan's temptations. This week's Gospel finds us focused instead on his divine nature, which Jesus reveals on a mountaintop where his clothes become "dazzling white," and Elijah ("the prophets") and Moses ("the Law") appear and converse with him.

On our life journey, we identify with the human Christ of the First Sunday of Lent – we know hunger, thirst, fatigue, and temptation "in the desert." But today's Gospel give us hope that occasionally, like the divinized Christ, we, too, might allow the light of God's life and love to shine through our human frailty.

MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

In the apparition of our Lord in a transfigured form on Mt. Tabor, the disciples experienced the presence of God in a very intimate way. The biblical writers in describing the divine encounter tell us of a "cloud" in the sky, out of which comes the voice of God saying, "*This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*"

God comes to us in a hundred different ways. But there is none more important than when he gives himself to us in some direct way. Such is the Lord's "mountaintop experience." As he did to the three apostles, God grants us "mountaintop experiences" in life. As today's gospel shows us, such experiences happen while we are in "prayer." Our moments of prayer are "mountaintop experiences" if such moments make us forget the problems and frustrations of life, where we leave behind our daily restlessness and find in the presence of God rest, inspiration and new strength for the difficulties of life lying ahead of us.

That is what the transfiguration event is telling us. That is what happens to us when our mediated experience of God becomes a mystical experience. For us Catholics, the Eucharistic celebration is or should be experienced as the climax of such "mountaintop experiences,"

In his book *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, St. John of the Cross compares our desire for union with God to the rays of sunlight shining upon a smudgy window. The smudges prevent the sun from illuminating the window completely. It would be different if the window were cleaned and polished. The sunlight will then give the window clarity and transparency.

We can apply this image to our desire for union with God. For, just as our Lord was transfigured, he also invites us to deal with those attitudes, events, and situations that prevent the Lord's light from shining in and through us.

Perhaps we can look for ways to clean the smudges off the windows of our lives to allow the sunlight to shine through them. A good example would be to seek reconciliation, particularly in the area of family and friends.

CONNECTIONS

One does not have to be a biblical scholar to find the connections between the crucifixion of Jesus and God's command to Abraham to offer up his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Both Isaac and Jesus were loved by their fathers. Both were en route to their death: Isaac carrying the wood for the fire; Jesus carrying the wood of the cross. Isaac's journey was three days. Jesus' from death to resurrection was also three days. The Genesis story concludes with God's last-minute change of mind. Isaac is spared. Abraham's unswerving faith is richly rewarded. In the account of the passion and resurrection, Jesus breaks the bonds of death and rises as the Redeemer of the world.

One cold winter a priest was walking through a dangerous neighborhood. A Man hiding in the shadows didn't recognize him as a priest because the priest had his topcoat buttoned up to his chin. The man came out of the shadows with a gun and asked the priest to give him his wallet. When the priest opened his coat to get it, the man with the gun saw his Roman collar and apologized. He said, "Sorry Father, I didn't know you were a priest. I can't steal from you. Just go on your way." The priest was so relieved he reached into his coat pocket and pulled out a cigar. He said, "Thank you, my good man. Let me give you a cigar." The robber said, "I appreciate that, Father, but I can't take it. I gave up smoking for Lent.

The obvious point is that whatever spiritual practice we chose to take on during Lent, it is supposed to *change* us, it is supposed to make us better people.

The most profound change any human will ever face is the end of life in this world and the beginning of life in the next. The themes of death and life are part of each of today's readings.

Abraham's son Isaac came within seconds of having his life taken from him, but he was spared. His having been spared was like a resurrection for him.

St. Paul reminds us that Jesus' death and resurrection is an assurance of God's love.

In the gospel of Mark, just before climbing the mountain, Jesus warned his apostles that he would be put to death and would rise again. And, when coming down from the mountain, Jesus tells Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone what they had experienced until he had risen from the dead.

YOUR CHARACTER, YOUR FATE

In his book *The Song of the Bird*, Fr. Anthony de Mello, SJ writes about a wise man who once reflected about himself: “I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was “Lord, give me energy to change the WORLD.”

“As I approached middle age and realized that half my life was gone without my changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: “Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me. Just my FAMILY and FRIENDS, and I shall be satisfied.”

“Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is, ‘Lord, give me the grace to change MYSELF.’ If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life.”

This Sunday’s gospel message talks about *change* which the wise man in the story prayed for. Christ’s transfiguration is telling us that we too need to be transfigured. As the old adage puts it: “Your character is your fate.” We need to change constantly, to grow for the better. And the growth towards Christian maturity is not a once-and-for-all experience and then “living happily ever after.” Rather it is a matter of continuing transfiguration, of continuing new acts of faith as circumstances change, of continuing challenges to choose between obedience and rebellion.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT: Saint Paul assures us that “God is for us.” Therefore we give voice to our needs and hopes, confident that the God who loves us will hear us.

LECTOR:

1) That the world may be transfigured by the presence of God, becoming a world of perfect justice, mercy, and peace, *we pray.*

2) That God’s generosity to Abraham and his descendants might motivate us to be generous in our support for the Church, starting with participation and financial support for our parish, *we pray.*

3) For all who are experiencing a crisis of faith, may they be inspired by Abraham’s witness of faith in God, *we pray.*

4) For all who are sick or suffering in any way, that they will be comforted by the healing presence of Christ, *we pray.*

5) We pray for a patience and a generosity in the distribution of the Covid vaccine, so that those who are most vulnerable and those most impoverished will not be neglected by the richer nations, *we pray.*

CELEBRANT:

Faithful God, we look to you in our need and listen closely to hear your voice. Bless us as the descendants of your servant Abraham and hear these prayers we make today in the name of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A REMINDER RE CORONA VIRUS:

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person, typically through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Airborne transmission is infection spread through exposure to those virus-containing respiratory droplets comprised of smaller droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air over long distances (usually greater than 6 feet) and time (typically hours).

Also, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

When should I quarantine for the coronavirus disease?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them), even for a few seconds.
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.

Do I still need to quarantine after I tested negative for COVID-19 but was exposed to someone who has COVID-19?

Yes. You should still self-quarantine for 14 days since your last exposure. It can take up to 14 days after exposure to the virus for a person to develop COVID-19 symptoms.

A negative result before end of the 14-day quarantine period does not rule out possible infection.

By self-quarantining for 14 days, you lower the chance of possibly exposing others to COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you’ve been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

Parish Support: Feb. 20-21 Collections: \$ 984

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 17: \$ 335

Via Online: Feb. 9—Feb. 14, 2021: \$ 705

Prayer: Jesus, may the contemplation of your Transfiguration to the Apostles transform my faith.

**AVAILABLE
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Jaime Martinez Arvizu** to place an ad today!
jarvizu@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x5831

**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



**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
yatracing45@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