

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time, **B**  
June 20, 2021

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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 8:30 AM.  
Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing.

## 1st Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said: Who shut within doors the sea, when it burst forth from the womb; when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling bands? When I set limits for it and fastened the bar of its door, and said: Thus far shall you come but no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stilled!

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm:

**"Give thanks to the Lord,  
his love is everlasting."**

They who sailed the sea in ships, trading on the deep waters, These saw the works of the Lord and his wonders in the abyss.

**R.**

His command raised up a storm wind which tossed its waves on high. They mounted up to heaven; they sank to the depths; their hearts melted away in their plight.

**R.**

They cried to the Lord in their distress; from their straits he rescued them, He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the sea were stilled.

**R.**

They rejoiced that they were calmed, and he brought them

to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness and his wondrous deeds to the children of men. **R.**

Give thanks  
to the Lord:  
his love is  
everlasting



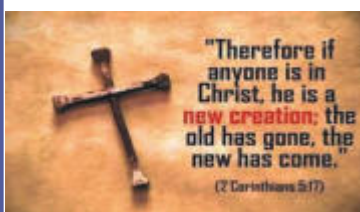
## 2nd Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Brothers and sisters: The love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

**The Word of the Lord.**



**Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**All: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Lector:** A great prophet has risen in our midst, God has visited his people.

**All: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading:

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**OUR NOVENA OF MASSES FOR FATHERS STARTS ON JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> (SAT) AND ENDS ON JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> (SUN).**

To include your father, living or deceased, in the Novena of Masses, just pick up a Father's Day Novena envelope at the church entrance, write on the designated space the name of your father, put in the envelope a donation of at least \$10, then **drop the envelope in the red box at the center aisle.**

*Your donation represents your father's act of charity, especially to the receiving charitable institution which will express thankfulness through prayers for the donors.*

Fr. George will be out of town from Sunday afternoon (June 20) till Thursday evening (June 24) to participate in the annual assembly of US Catholic Priests.

**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

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus calm the raging sea as his disciples cling to the storm-tossed boat. The disciples were terrified that they would die, but Jesus suggests that their faith should have reassured them.

Many of us can probably recall a time when our father came to our rescue, protecting or supporting us, making everything all right.

Today, we honor our dads, our grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and all who have acted as fathers in our lives. May their protection and constancy be a model of God's care for us.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The book of Job was an attempt to understand the dilemma: "How can God be just and fair and still allow bad things to happen to good people?"**

As pointed out several times in the story of Job, he was a righteous man. In spite of his goodness, he suffered all kinds of tragedy – his children have been killed, he was stricken with a horrible disease, everything he owned has been lost, and his friends have turned on him. Out of frustration, he lashes out at God, he wants to know why. The question of innocent suffering is dealt with in 42 chapters.

Our first reading today gives us a very tiny portion of God's answer to Job. Basically, God told Job, "You don't know anything about how the universe operates; just let me take care of things and trust me."

The encounter with God that Job experienced satisfied Job. It gave him a new perspective or a new meaning and depth to "trusting God." To Job, "trust in God" was no longer just a word or phrase, no longer just intellectual knowledge, but one that was born out of the encounter with God that he experienced. It became a spirituality, that is to say, even though Job didn't fully understand, the encounter with God that he experienced was all the satisfaction he needed.

Thus Job returns to where he was at the beginning of this book when he simply blessed God for the gift of life (Job 1:21).



The small excerpt from Job is linked to the Gospel by the illustration of God's power over the elements. In both readings, God says, in effect and in young people's terms, "Why are you freaking out? Did you forget Who's got your back?"

### DO YOU NOT YET HAVE FAITH?

In today's Gospel, in the midst of the storm the panicky disciples awaken Jesus, asking, "Don't you care that we are perishing?" After he calms the wind and the waves Jesus asks the apostles. "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" Jesus asks us those same questions today.

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon meditation on this gospel, I wondered how the apostles might have responded if Jesus had asked those questions before he calmed the storm. If he did, it probably would have gone in one ear and out the other as they would have been too worried about the storm.

It's easy for anyone to see we should have trusted more after danger has passed, but our Lord wants us to hear this question also when the storm is raging and the waves are high. God wants us to know he is still in control, even though we may wonder, "how can he be?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Flight attendants always present a confident demeanor and a smile as they assure us that "in the unlikely event that we have to ditch at sea," we will find our seat cushions also double as flotation devices. But once the plane is airborne, we are all in the hands of God.

It was the same for the disciples in today's Gospel. Once the boat pushed off from the shore, they were on their own in an alien water world. They were at the mercy of the wind, the waves, and the integrity of the boat. Fragile and frightened, when the fury of the squall was upon them, they realized that their only hope was Jesus. We today, must have the confidence to ask: "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

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Some people tend to call on God only when everything else seems hopeless, just like a scene in the hospital when the doctors admit that they are helpless medically. A member of the family, out of the hearing of the sick man, murmurs, "I guess all we can do now is pray." Such a statement reveals a lack of real faith, an attitude that turning to God in prayer is but a last resort, a last-ditch effort.

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A story is told of a guy who docked under the table when a killer earthquake occurred. After he was rescued, he said, "I am no churchgoer nor prayerful but I was so scared that I said all the prayers that I know — including "Grace before and after meals."

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### CELEBRANT:

We now turn to God who stilled the waves and calmed the sea, confident that the storms in our lives are no match for the Lord.

### LECTOR:

- 1) For the church: That we, the baptized, be people who speak words of peace into the storms and troubles of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations compete with one another to bring peace instead of war, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are in the midst of life's storms, for those who are facing terrible loss, for all who are frightened and need the comforting presence of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all fathers: That they cherish their wives, protect their children, and act as a source of strength in their neighborhoods and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our parishioners, especially those who are in poor health and those who are encountering problems in their life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

### CELEBRANT:

Ever-present God, you created the world and all that is in it. May we find our home in the world, shelter from the storm and comfort in your arms, as you respond to our needs through the one whom even the wind and sea obey, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.



A woman was seated next to a priest on an airplane during a storm. The plane was bouncing up and down. The terrified woman said to the man of the cloth beside her: "Can't you do something about this awful storm?" The priest looked at her and said: "Lady, I'm in sales, not management," pointing upward with his finger.

\*\*\*\*\*

"While having their evening dinner together, a little girl looked up at her father and asked, "Daddy, you're the boss in our family, right?" The father was very pleased to hear it and confidently replied, "Yes, my little princess." The girl then continued, "That's because mommy put you in charge, right?"

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**Teacher (on phone):** You say Michael has a cold and can't come to school today? To whom am I speaking?

**Voice:** This is my father.

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**Son:** For \$20, I'll be good.

**Dad:** Oh, yeah? When I was your age, I was good for nothing.

Dear Maryann (Warner), Cruz (Sevilla), Robert (Rodriguez), Roger (DeCorse), Steve (Taylor), Rosanne (Rutherford), Jerilyn (Swift Arrow), and Marcie (Fraijo),

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

I hereby invite you to a meeting to brainstorm some ideas and hopefully plan out fundraisers for our parish. The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

To prepare for the brainstorming session, please ponder the following:

- In connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Thomas Indian Mission next year, what possible fundraisers can we come up with? Possible answers: perhaps a raffle, a dinner for a cause, etc.?
- In connection with the paved sidewalk to the parish hall via the west side of the church. Halfway through the sidewalk, a wide space is paved/concreted because in that area we will build an altar of saints where we will keep the statues of saints. What possible income-generating projects can we have in that area? Possible answers: perhaps by renting the place as an open-air reception area after small weddings in the church or other celebrations of parishioners? Perhaps by making it a place for perpetual memorials (for a donation) for the living or deceased?

I suggest that you discuss the above suggestions with fellow parishioners, especially those who are not among those asked to join the June 27 meeting, and take to the meeting the fruit of your discussions.

You may also suggest other possible doable fundraisers.

All for the greater honor and glory of God, in the local representative of Christ's mystical body, the St. Thomas Indian Mission parish community, I remain,

*Fr. George of the Desert*  
Pastor

### **Please Heed this Message from Bishop McElroy:**

It is vitally important that all of us receive the Covid vaccine. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are safe and effective. They are fully approved for use at this moment by the teachings of our Church. And as Pope Francis has so clearly taught, receiving the vaccine is not only for ourselves as individuals. It is for everyone that we treasure, to keep them safe and healthy and bring back the joy of life to us all.

... The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we will be able to return to the many joys of our lives that we have missed during this past year of suffering. The vaccines, with our continued masking and social distancing during the coming months, will bring this hateful pandemic to an end."



June 12-13  
Sunday Collections:  
**\$ 787.00**  
Via Online: June 9  
to June 15: **\$ 205.00**



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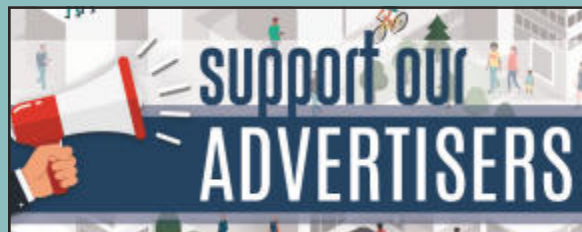
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