

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

15th Sunday in
Ordinary Time, B
July 11, 2021

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

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance Hymn: 628 —
How Great Thou Art.
Holy Communion: 706 —
Be Not Afraid.

Recessional: 593 ---
Holy God We Praise Thy Name.

SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

We have responded to the call of the Lord by gathering together in this holy place to worship God, to listen to the Word, and to share in the Eucharist.

When we leave, we are asked to go forth as changed persons, nourished by the Lord so that we can witness to our faith outside these four walls.

1st Reading: Amos 7:12-15

Amaziah, priest of Bethel, said to Amos, "Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah! There earn your bread by prophesying, but never again prophesy in Bethel; for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple." Amos answered Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets; I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The Lord took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

The Word of the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

**"Lord, let us see your
kindness and grant us
your salvation."**

I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord — for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R.
Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R.
The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia.
All: Alleluia, Alleluia.
Lector: May the Father of our lord Jesus Christ

enlightens the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick, no food, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTING ON THE WORD GUIDEPOSTS

CHRIST SENDS HIS APOSTLES OUT TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

Last week, in reference to the prophet Ezekiel, we learned that while sometimes prophets predicted the future, their main function was to direct the people to live by God's laws. Consequently, they were not usually appreciated. Today's first reading emphasizes this once more as it relates the experience of the prophet Amos.

Amos lived about 700 years before Christ. In the prophet Amos' day, Jerusalem (in the Southern Kingdom) was where God's true temple was located, not in Bethel (in the Northern Kingdom). At that time, however, King Jeroboam of the Northern Kingdom wanted to make it more convenient for his people to worship. So, in order not to have to travel all the way to Jerusalem to do so, he established worship at the sanctuary in Bethel which was then in competition with the temple in Jerusalem.

Thus, God called Amos to go to Bethel and warn King Jeroboam and the people that their establishment of a rival sanctuary was not God's plan and it could lead to their destruction. As a result, Amos was met with opposition spearheaded by the high priest Amaziah. This is where our first reading today begins.

The high priest in Bethel, Amaziah, rejects Amos' message and regards him as nothing more than a career or professional prophet seeking to make a living by presuming to speak for God, and told him to go back to Jerusalem where he came from. Amos protested that he was not a career prophet. He patiently explained that he was living a nice peaceful life as a farmer and God called him to go to Bethel to pronounce God's message.

It helps to note that at that time there were professional prophets; that is, some people made their living by telling people how to solve their problems, giving them advice, predicting the future, etc. These professional prophets were often servants of pagan gods, not servants of the God of Abraham. They usually spoke the kinds of things their clients would want to hear because if they offended or rebuked their client, they would not have been paid their fee.

CONVENIENCE OR COMMITMENT?

In the prophet Amos' day, Jerusalem was where God's true temple was located, not in Bethel. But the faithful in Bethel were drawn to the convenience of the local temple and distracted from the proper one which was in Jerusalem.

To apply the foregoing to our present situation: Because of the challenge of COVID, for a year we were dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and had to be contented with following a streamed Mass. Now that the dispensation has been lifted, has it led you astray with this arrangement or has it brought you closer to eventual increased presence? Our global pandemic has brought many challenges. Hopefully our faith has also increased.

Amos can rightly be called a "reluctant prophet" When he is run out of Bethel by Amaziah the priest, he responds by saying that being a prophet was not his idea but God's. Of course, it is not only Amos who was reluctant to take the role of prophet. Most, if not all, true prophets do not relish the mission. Prophets throughout the ages have experienced rejection and abuse for their efforts; it is seldom an easy ministry. Up to now, this is so. We do not have to look far. We look at ourselves. As Christians — priests and lay people alike — we are all called to speak/live God's truth. If in living our faith in word and deed we have not experienced rejection or abuse at one time or another, then chances are instead of being a true prophet like Amos — albeit reluctant, we may have been like those career prophets of Amos' time who would speak only the kinds of things that people want to hear.

WE ARE CHALLENGED TO ANSWER GOD'S CALL . . . TODAY!

We have all been called individually by name and collectively by community to answer God's call. The initial call came at baptism. We were called that day to service, to ministry, to an active pursuit of God. We live that call as a community, which needs our input. If we sit around and do nothing, allowing everyone else to do what is necessary, then we have missed the call.

The examples of the prophet Amos and the Twelve apostles that we hear of today, encourage us to carry on their sacred work in our own daily lives. In the second reading, St. Paul comforts us in this task with his words of encouragement.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Celebrant:

Called in baptism to be disciples, let us offer our prayers to God in the confidence that we will be heard.

Lector:

- 1) For the Church, the body of Christ, that we may be faithful witnesses of the gospel in what we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in position of authority, that they may use their influence to bring honesty, justice, and peace to every corner of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those discerning their life's journey, that they may be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their lives and respond freely and generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our military, our police, and all who serve in authority to protect people, that the Lord may bless and guide them in their efforts to maintain peace and order, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) That the Lord will bring healing to the sick or suffering, comfort to the dying, conversion to sinners, and light to those experiencing darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant:

Gracious God, you shower your grace upon us each and every day, whether we are conscious of it or not. Help us each day to live our lives generously, willingly passing on your grace to the people in our lives as we humbly express our needs through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Thomas Indian Mission will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2022.

We would like to plan some events to celebrate as well as to generate some funds for the Church.

**We will be having a meeting on July 25, 2021
(Sunday), in the Church, right after Mass.**

We are encouraging you to come to the meeting, hear the ideas we have and share your ideas. We need help in all areas of the events, so we are asking you all to get involved and help make our 100th Year Celebration a great success.

Discerning Gifts: Do I have what it takes? Workshop for All Parish Ministers – Present & Future

Come and learn more about how you can make a difference in sharing your gift of presence with your parish community on Thursday, July 22nd at the Diocesan Pastoral Center Chapel from 6:30–9:00 pm.

We all have gifts of time, talent and treasure to share charitably and generously with others. Koren & Jessica Ruiz from Stewards of God will prayerfully lead us through a reflection of discerning our gifts.

Do I have what it takes? The answer is Yes! Your parish community needs you as we continue the mission of evangelization in our parishes.

\$10 donation. To register, please visit our [website](#) or call 858-490-8234.

PROTECT THE HYDE AMENDMENT

Taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortions. We believe in the sanctity of life, and we must defend it. Be informed and take action. Call your members of Congress and tell them to save innocent lives by protecting the Hyde Amendment. Join the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities and take action. Click [here](#) to learn more and see the flyer and petition.

WE (YOU) ARE THE CHURCH.

The disciples are sent out two by two. We are sent out family by family, person by person, friend by friend, story by story.

Hearing the Gospel each week is not enough. Active participation in the liturgy is good, but also not enough. We are invited each week to carry the message with us and make it part of our daily lives. Only then is the Gospel truly alive.

The exit doors of the church are in many ways the most sacred part of it. Leaving without living out the Gospel is an empty participation.

Living out the Gospel has always taken courage. Our rich history is full of stories of those who gave their lives for Christ, and those who dedicated the rest of their lives in service of it.

Listen for that whispered quiet invitation of the Holy Spirit. The Church lives on in mysterious, beautiful ways. It is never too late to begin again.


May the holy Communion we share with one another, whether in person or spiritually, give us the strength and courage to carry on our mission as disciples of Jesus working together and united as a parish family of St. Thomas Indian Mission, all for the greater honor and glory of God.

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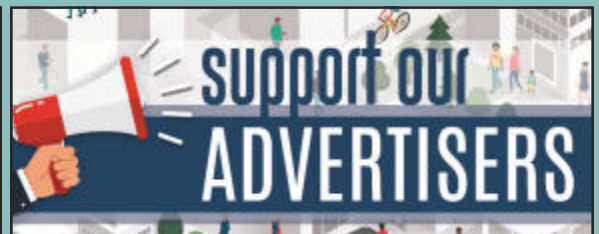
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