

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**24th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time, Year B  
September 12, 2021**

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

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

**Tel: 760-572-0283**

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

**Entrance: — 793**

**Table of Plenty.**

**Offertory: — 615**

**Abba, Father.**

**Recessional: — 659**

**Lead Me, Lord.**

## 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**

## Special Collection for Haiti 2021 Earthquake Victims

The National Conference of Bishops in the U.S. has called for a special collection to respond to the humanitarian and significant church recovery needs due to the recent earthquake in Haiti.

**Next Sunday, Sept. 19, we will take up a 2nd collection during Masses.** You may also contribute on our website at [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org) or at [www.sdcatholic.org](http://www.sdcatholic.org) —the diocesan website.

Everyone is encouraged to join the Church in being a visible witness to the healing presence of Jesus alive in the world through this collection.

There are no special envelopes for this collection. If you want your donation to be recorded for tax reduction purposes, please put it inside an envelope and write on the envelope your parishioner number or your name and address. **Thank you.**

## REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish employee can be made by contacting 858-490-8353 or at [www.sdcatholic.org](http://www.sdcatholic.org).

## COLLECTIONS:

**September 4-5:**

**\$1,375.00**

**Via Online, Sept. 3-7:**

**\$345.00**

**Missionary Coop:**

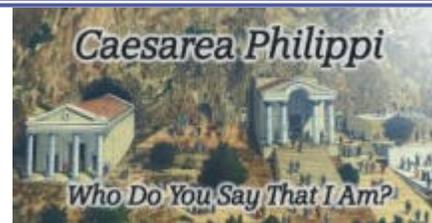
**\$1,325.00**



## The Mystery of Faith:

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

## ***WHO IS JESUS IN YOUR LIFE?***



Situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and at the base of Mt.

Hermon, Caesarea

Philippi had long been a center for false religion. In the past, the city had many names.

**In the Old Testament times,** it was called Ba'al Hermon (Jgs. 3:3), likely because the god Ba'al was worshiped there. Beginning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century before Christ, it was called Paneas because Pan -- the Greek god of nature, and his worship had apparently replaced the ancient Ba'als.

**Later, in New Testament times,** the name of the city was changed to Caesarea Philippi in honor of Julius Caesar who was then recognized as a divinity of the Roman Empire. Today the niches can still be seen in the rock facade at the site. Other than the shrine of Pan, there are also niches of the statues of other Greek and Roman gods and goddesses.

**With this background it was very appropriate for Jesus to ask his disciples the question: "Who do YOU say that I am (Mk. 8:27b)?"** In other words, Jesus wanted to challenge the loyalty of his disciples in front of the many gods and attractions of the world at that time. To be in good grace with the colonizing power and thus have a better life under the Roman rule, one could have said his God was Julius Caesar. Or as Greek culture was the dominant culture at that time, one could have chosen one of the Greek gods as his God.

**That question still resonates in our postmodern world.** All of us are in a "Caesarea Philippi" every day. Surrounded by the modern gods of power, money, lust, comfort and worldly entertainment, Jesus asks each of us every day, "Among so many promising idols, who do you say I am in your life?"

**The Resurrected Christ really present in the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our courage to choose Christ over worldly values that we face every day.**

# ***THE READINGS. . . SOME REFLECTIONS. . . AND***

## **Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day**

Often, we hear what we want to hear, not what we need to hear. It's only human; even Saint Peter showed this tendency. When Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer and be killed, Peter immediately drew him aside and criticized him. Not only did Jesus rebuke him, he told the crowd that those who follow him must suffer as well, must willingly take up their cross.

As we gather today, let us take time to reflect on what it means to take up our cross. May our prayer today be for God's grace in discerning and carrying our cross as we follow Jesus our Lord.

## **1st Reading – Isaiah 50:5-9a**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. <sup>9A</sup>See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)**

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

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord because he has heard my voice in supplication, <sup>2</sup>because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called.

**R.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the netherworld seized upon me; <sup>4</sup>I fell into distress and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the Lord, "O Lord, save my life!"

**R.**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

**R.**

<sup>8</sup>For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. <sup>9</sup>I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**R.**

## **2nd Reading – James 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Alleluia – (Galatians 6:14)**

**Lector:** Alleluia, alleluia. **All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Lector:** <sup>14</sup>May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel – Mark 8:27-35**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup>Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. <sup>32</sup>He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

<sup>34</sup>He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At 12 noon on Sunday, Sept. 12, visit <https://www.sdcatholic.org/eucharist> to view a taped video of a ten-minute homily on "The Eucharist is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ," with an introduction by Bishop McElroy.

## It is not easy to be a Christian.

Indeed, it is not easy to be a Christian. That is, it is difficult to be a true Christian.

**Isaiah** (first reading) gives us a foretaste of this when he writes: "I give my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beards" (Isaiah 50:6). Isaiah suffers as Christ would, and, like Christ, he suffers willingly. For God's sake he stands up to those who oppose him without fighting back.

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**James** (second reading) does not speak of suffering but he tells us that faith demands action. "Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17). Dead. It is not enough just to believe. What we profess in worship must bear fruit in daily life. How can we claim to share in Christ's sacrifice in the Eucharist and not live a life of service throughout the week?

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**The Gospel** puts it all together. Jesus tells his disciples what it means to be a Christian. After telling them that he must suffer, die, and rise on the third day, he rebukes a protesting Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mark 8:33). Then he addresses his disciples and the assembled crowd, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

\*\*\*\*\*

If we have truly made a choice to follow Jesus Christ, there will be many trials. Picking up the cross means making a choice for Jesus Christ. **Denying oneself means that never again will I choose what I want over what God wants.**

### **"Who do you say that I am?" gets to the heart of the Christian message.**

Each of us needs to reduce our inflated sense of ourselves, and accept the lordship of Jesus. We may start with big plans, but eventually we need to acknowledge our own weakness, and our own need for Jesus. One popular speaker, Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr, has a clever way of saying this: "Your kingdom come, my kingdom go." It's something to think of when we pray the Lord's prayer.

**We extend our deepest sympathies** to our dear parishioners Robert & Gloria Rodriguez and family on the passing of their beloved daughter **+Maria Atalig**. May our Heavenly Father bless Maria with eternal life.



## Universal Prayers

### **Celebrant:**

It is the duty and privilege of all believers to pray for the world, to intercede for those most in need, confident that God hears us.

### **Lector:**

- 1) For the courage, as baptized Christians, to follow where Jesus leads us, *we pray.*
- 2) For those willing to risk danger for others: for organ donors and first responders, missionaries and those in the military, law enforcement personnel and peaceful protesters, *we pray.*
- 3) For those who live in danger without adequate help or support: for people in areas of war or political conflict, in prisons or refugee camps, in violent neighborhoods or families, *we pray.*
- 4) For those who are afraid to take personal risks for others, *we pray.*
- 5) For parents and guardians who make great sacrifices for their children, *we pray.*
- 6) For grandparents who have assumed, at personal cost, the care of their grandchildren, *we pray.*
- 7) For all who are willing to walk the extra mile, give beyond their means, help when they are frightened or weary, *we pray.*
- 8) For the neediest among us; for the sick and dying; and for those who have died, *we pray.*

### **Celebrant:**

God our helper, you uphold us in times of turmoil and danger. Like your people of old, we call upon your name, and we ask for the courage to follow wherever Jesus leads us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Visit <https://www.sdcatholic.org/eucharist> at 12 noon the next three Sundays, for a ten-minute homily on the Eucharist:  
Sept 12: "The Eucharist is a personal encounter with Christ."  
Sept. 19: "The Eucharist is the sacrificial memorial of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection by which we have been redeemed."  
Sept. 26: "The Eucharist is the sacred meal that nurtures us, bonds us together and sends us forth to transform the world."

A married lady went out shopping one day and when she returned home, she brought with her a beautiful dress. She showed it to her husband who almost had a stroke when he heard how much it cost. She agreed with him that it was very expensive, but she said she tried it on and she looked so beautiful in it that she couldn't resist the temptation to buy it. Her husband told her she should have said: "Get behind me, Satan." She said "that's exactly what I said, and Satan said 'You look fabulous from back here too!'"

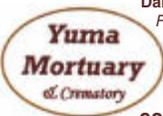


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