

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

27th Sunday
in Ordinary Time, Year B
October 3, 2021

Entrance: — 846
Whatsoever You Do
Recessional: — 628
How Great Thou Art

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

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

The first Sunday of October which is today, is observed as *Respect Life Sunday*. And, during the month of October, we are asked to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. May all people live, and die, in dignity and love.



An excerpt from Bishop McElroy's message on Sunday, September 12, to launch the seven-week period of Eucharistic Renewal observed in our diocese.

"I am speaking to you ... to introduce you to an initiative that is taking place in every parish of our diocese ... to renew our understanding of and love for the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. In it we receive the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have been redeemed. Yet many faith-filled Catholics have questions or misconceptions about the meaning of Eucharist for us and for our world.

For this reason, we will be presenting to you today and on the following two Sundays homilies preached by priests of our diocese on the most important realities of the gift of the Eucharist. This will be followed by three Sundays in which we will highlight and explain each section of the Mass as it is celebrated.

It is my deepest hope that these weeks will be for us all a time to grow in our love for and understanding of this most beautiful sacrament, and in doing so come closer to the God who has bestowed upon us every blessing we know in this world."

COLLECTIONS:

September 25-26:
\$ 630.00
Via Online, Sept. 24-28:
\$ 205.00



The Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE READINGS. . . . SOME REFLECTIONS. . . . AND GUIDEPOSTS.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

"If we love one another, God remains in us," we sing at the Alleluia or Acclamation before the Gospel reading today. How appropriate on this Respect Life Sunday. All life, everyone's life, is a gift from God, a gift given out of love by our Creator. Therefore, all life is precious in God's eyes. If all life is precious, all life is worthy of our love.

With that attitude and with God remaining in us, we can sing the second half of the Gospel acclamation, "and God's love is brought to perfection in us."

1st Reading – Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." ¹⁹So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

²¹So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, ²³the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh. *The Word of the Lord.* **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, and 6)

"(cf. 5) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives."

¹Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways! ²For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

R.

³Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

R.

⁴Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

⁵The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R.**

"May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!"

R.

2nd Reading – Hebrews 2:9-11

Brothers and sisters: ⁹He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers." *The Word of the Lord.* **All: Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia – (Cf. 1 John 4:12)

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

Lector: ¹²If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark 10:2-16

²The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. ³He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." ⁵But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.* ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." ¹⁰In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

¹⁶Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, NO HUMAN BEING MUST SEPARATE" (MARK 10:9).

In today's passage from Genesis—the second story of creation—the first woman is created out of a combination of *the human and the divine*. She is created from the rib of the first human and built up by the LORD God.

Many generations later, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (*the divine*) and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*the human*).

The church, upon whom Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, is the bride of Christ, *the human joined to the divine*. Jesus speaks to the Pharisees about a husband and wife, but let us apply this lesson also to Jesus and the Church. "What God has joined together, no human being must separate."

When the Jews asked Jesus if it were lawful for a man to divorce his wife, they already believed they knew the answer. Divorce was permitted by Jewish law; Moses permitted it only because of the people's "hardness of heart." But Jesus comes to fulfill the Law. Thus he goes back beyond Moses to the book of Genesis which records the original intention God had in creating man and woman. Here the woman was equal to the man, not subordinate.

Man and woman were to provide companionship and love for one another and keep the human race going. And this drive God put in us to procreate is to be exercised in the exclusive, permanent relationship of marriage. As the Scriptures tell us, "the two of them become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24b).

It is based on this unique kind of union that the Church teaches and has always taught that the only appropriate expression of physical love is in marriage. Sexuality is sacred. It has to have boundaries or it will become little more than pure animal behavior. And without adequate boundaries human society will suffer and we would not be faithful to the teachings of the Scriptures.

As heard in the first reading, the origin of marriage is from God. For this reason, in marriage two people promise God as well as each other to take each other as husband and wife "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health until death."

Unfortunately, the solemn commitment "for better or for worse until death" has little meaning for many people today. Marriage is, for many people, whatever they want it to be; that it is a personal and private arrangement between two people who can make it or break it whenever they choose. That's why Jesus' teaching is difficult for today's world. Yet if we believe in Jesus as God's spokesperson, then his teachings (and not the attitude that dominates our culture) must guide our thinking about marriage.

JESUS' TEACHING ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE IS FOUND IN MATTHEW, LUKE, AND ST. PAUL.

However, in Matthew's gospel there seems to be an exception in Jesus' sanction of divorce and remarriage when Jesus says: "whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another, commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9).

The phrase "except for immorality," has been greatly debated. The Catholic understanding of this passage is that the exception refers to marriages between close relatives. Hence the exception is not an exception to Jesus' general prohibition of divorce and remarriage; rather, it means that Jesus' teaching does not apply to relationships that are already forbidden by God's law.

AN ANNULMENT IS NOT A DIVORCE

Many people, whose first marriage failed, have sought and received an annulment from the Church and have been able to be married in the Church a second time.

An **annulment** simply states that a particular marriage, even if it were valid civilly, did not meet the standards for validity required by the Catholic Church and, therefore, the couple are not bound to one another in God's eyes. It is a statement that after serious investigation by Church authorities the marriage was invalid from the beginning. It is not to end a marriage precisely because there was no marriage before God, even if there was a ceremony and a grand celebration.

A **divorce** is a legal matter. It is the declaration by the state that the marriage is ended because either of the couple realizes that it is not working.

The annulment process can be a very complicated one and it's best not to make rash judgments about people who could or could not get an annulment.

But even if a person could not get an annulment, the Church does not encourage the person to break up with a second spouse if they have one but to continue to come to Mass and to live a good Christian life to the best of their abilities. We see how pastorally Jesus treated the Samaritan woman he met at the well who had been married to five husbands (1 John 4:17-18).



A pastor was preparing two elderly persons who decided to get married. The pastor asked the anxious old man: "Do you love her?" The old man replied: "Nope." "Is she a good Christian woman?" "I don't know for sure," was the old man's answer. "Well, does she have lots of money?" asked the pastor. "I doubt it." "Then why are you marrying her?" the pastor asked. "Because she can drive at night," the old man said.

**AVAILABLE FOR
A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!**

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

Darren S. Mattice
Funeral Director
Owner
**Yuma
Mortuary**
c. Crematory
928.782.9865
775 S 5th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Darren@yumamortuary.com
www.yumamortuary.com

SOFT CLOTH CAR WASH

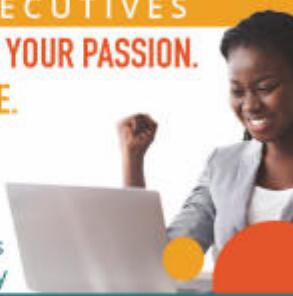
Ride with pride;
drive a clean car!

900 South 4th Ave
783-3116



WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community

 Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO 
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

  1-855-225-4251

YUMA automotive & transmission **SERVICE**
Brett Simala 928.783.6111
Stan Simala fax:928.783.2818
841 20th Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364
www.YumaAutoAndTrans.com

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



*Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are
by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!*

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