

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

29th Sunday
in Ordinary Time, Year B
October 17, 2021

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

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance: — 597
Praise to the Lord

Recessional: — 706
Be Not Afraid

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

NEXT WEEKEND WE WILL CELEBRATE WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities.



Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Special envelopes for this collection will be distributed right after today's Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC RENEWAL INITIATIVE

This weekend, October 16-17, is Week 2 of the "teaching Masses" phase of the Eucharistic Renewal Initiative of our diocese.

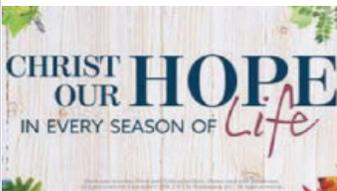
To deepen the understanding of the ritual actions of the Mass, the diocese has developed a step-by-step explanation of the Eucharistic liturgy. The explanation is presented within the framework of a meal, where we gather, we tell stories, we share a meal and we are sent renewed into the world.

The explanation is presented over three weeks:

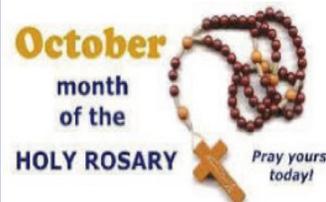
Week 1 (Oct. 9-10) Gathering: Introductory and Concluding Rites. These have been combined to be covered in a single week.

Week 2 (Oct. 16-17) Storytelling: Liturgy of the Word.
Week 3 (Oct. 23-24) Meal sharing: Liturgy of the Eucharist

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH



If you want peace in your heart, in your home, in your country, assemble together every night and say the rosary.
-Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914)



COLLECTIONS:

October 9-10:
\$ 679.00
Via Online, Oct. 10-12:
\$ 205.00



UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

CELEBRANT:

Let us pray for the needs of the Church, of this gathered community, and for our world.

LECTOR:

- 1) For the Church, that it may resist the temptation to lord it over others and may embody the role of servant, we pray.
- 2) For leaders around the world, that they may embrace their mission to serve others, especially those who have been neglected by society, giving them respect, dignity, and hope, we pray.
- 3) For an end to war and terrorism, that conflict and differences may be resolved by peaceful means, we pray.
- 4) For those for whom every day is a burden due to illness, abuse, poverty, or other trauma, that they may be served by those who can make a difference in their lives, we pray.
- 5) For an increase in the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary who is our Mother who stands with us at all the crossroads of our life and points the way to her Son, we pray.

CELEBRANT:

Hear our prayers, O God of all, and make us true servants of all your people, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Our loving God has called us together today to hear and respond to the Good News that Jesus Christ came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. What today's celebration also makes clear is that if we are to follow Jesus, we too must learn to serve without expectation of reward.

Yes, we may not be called to suffer like Jesus and the disciples. But we *are* called to serve. As we prepare for our celebration, let us pray that we will continue to be formed as true Christian servants.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Today's readings, with their focus on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, recall the readings of Holy Week. Today's passage from Isaiah is part of the longer passage we hear on Good Friday, describing the Suffering Servant, whose voluntary suffering atones for the sins of many. Today's Gospel foreshadows Holy Thursday's Gospel, with Jesus telling his disciples that he came to serve, not to be served. As the author of Hebrews says, let us look to Jesus for timely help (cf. 2nd reading).

1st Reading – Isaiah 53:10-11

¹⁰The LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity. If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. ¹¹Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22)

“(cf. 22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you!”

⁴Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy. ⁵He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R.

¹⁸See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, ¹⁹To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

R.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and our shield. ²²May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us who have put our hope in you. **R.**

2nd Reading – Hebrews 4:14-16

Brothers and sisters: ¹⁴Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. ¹⁶So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

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

Alleluia – (Cf. Mark 10:45)

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

Lector: ⁴⁵The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. **All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

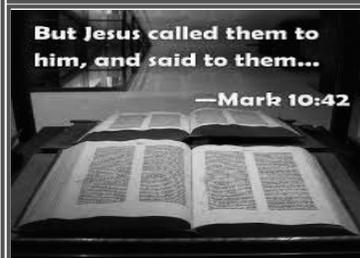
Gospel – Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶He replied, “What do you wish me to do for you?” ³⁷They answered him, “Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.” ³⁸Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹They said to him, “We can.” Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

⁴²Jesus summoned them [the Twelve] and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; ⁴⁴whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



TO PUT A HUMAN FACE ON THE APOSTLES, SO THAT WE CAN BETTER IDENTIFY WITH THEM.

If you look in St. Mark's Gospel, right before today's passage, Jesus had warned his apostles for the third time about his "suffering, death and resurrection" that was soon to take place. Now, for the third time, we are told by Mark how the apostles hadn't the slightest idea of what Jesus was talking about.

The first time Jesus warned them, Peter told Jesus that what Jesus was talking about (suffering and death) just couldn't happen. After the second time Jesus warned them, the apostles were arguing over which of them was the most important.

Now, after Jesus' third prediction, James and John, two who were among his first followers, the only two who along with Peter had witnessed the raising of the daughter of Jairus back to life, the only two who along with Peter had witnessed the Transfiguration, these two now provide yet another reaction, boldly asking for the places of honor when Jesus comes into glory. "Yes, yes, we can drink the cup of suffering and death. No problem. Just give us the top places at the Glory Table."

Jesus must have sighed from his toes. But again, he tries to educate them into the way of God's kingdom: "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant (Mark 10:43). There is the world's greatness and the kingdom's greatness. Kingdom greatness has to do with service. Not self-service but self-giving service.

The Teenagers — James and John

Tradition tells us that John, whom we just heard mentioned in the Gospel, was the youngest disciple of Jesus: 15, 16, or even younger. It could be that he stayed with the women at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified, while the other apostles hid, because he was too young to fully realize the danger in doing so. Logically, if John was young, his brother James was not much older.

When Matthew recorded this same incident of the question about sitting beside Jesus in his kingdom, it was not James and John who asked the question, but their mother who did the talking (cf. Matthew 20:20-28). The boys were not quite up to talking for themselves.

In Mark's account, John and James managed to ask the question on their own. Jesus replied by asking if they could truly follow him, drink from the cup from which he drank and be baptized with the baptism with which he would be baptized. Of course, the boys told "Yes." Any teenager in the world would promise a coach, a hero, to do what a coach asks.

While James and John were living the way of the culture, which was that one should always seek honor, what Jesus considered true discipleship was to become a

person of service. Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant." In today's passage, Jesus uses the term "*diakonos*" (servant), that is, a table waiter, one of the lowest ranking positions in society. Jesus also said that "whoever wishes to be first among you will be a slave of all."

This was a complete and radical reversal from cultural expectations of that day, and it remains a reversal of most cultural norms of how to achieve social standing, in our day as well.

SERVICE, NOT STATUS

The authority Jesus wants for his followers flows from one title only, the Good Shepherd, and not of the gentiles who lord it over everyone. Leadership has nothing to do with any form of dominance, but everything to do with service.

As we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist today, may each one of us, in the silence of our heart, find ourselves praying in these or similar words:

*O Jesus, present in the Sacrament of the Altar,
Teach all nations to serve you with a willing heart,
Knowing that to serve God is to reign.
May your Sacrament, O Jesus, Be light to the mind,
Strength to the will, Joy to the heart.
May it be the support for the weak,
The comfort for the suffering,
The wayfaring bread of salvation for the dying,
And, for all, the pledge of future glory. Amen*

—St. Pope John XXIII

A week from today, we celebrate World Mission Sunday.

The theme for this year comes from the Acts of the Apostles (4:20): "*We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.*" This was said by John and Peter after healing and preaching in the name of Jesus.

John would spend the rest of his life sharing the Good News with others.

Peter would lead the Church in its difficult early days, until he died for his faith.

And James? He was beheaded; the very first of the Apostles to be martyred.

They did all our Lord asked. It took them time to grasp what it can mean to be a Christian. Now it is up to us to understand and accept everything our life of faith entails.

In this week before World Mission Sunday, we pray for priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders who continue to "speak" of our faith throughout the Pope's missions.

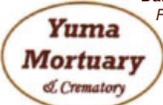
Next Sunday, World Mission Sunday, we join them in these efforts, through our prayers and financial help.

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