

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**30th Sunday, Year B**

October 24, 2021

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

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

## **HYMNS:**

**Entrance:** — 695  
Open My Eyes

**Recessional:** — 828  
Go Make Of All Disciples

## **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

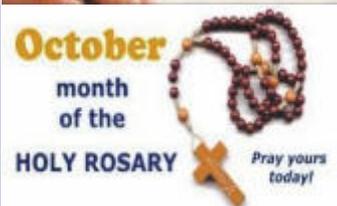
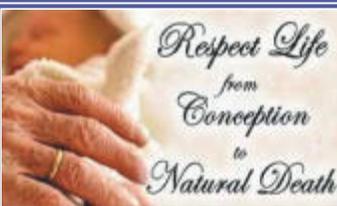
## **TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.**

The theme Pope Francis has chosen for this year's World Mission Sunday is "*We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20). These were the words said by Peter and John when they were told by the Council to stop speaking or teaching in the name of Jesus.



As true believers, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves. Once we experience the power of God's love and recognize His fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. We realize that everything we have received from the Lord is meant to be put to good use and freely shared with others.

**In case you forgot to bring your monetary help for the missions, you may bring it next Sunday. Our collections for the missions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Missions Office in mid November 2021.**



## **COLLECTIONS:**

**October 16-17:**  
\$ 978.00  
**Via Online, Oct. 15-19:**  
\$ 325.00



## **EUCCHARISTIC RENEWAL INITIATIVE**

This weekend we conclude with the last of a three-part "Walk through the Mass: A Step-by-Step Explanation." Our first week we looked at the Introductory Rites or the gathering as well as the Concluding Rites or the commissioning. Last week we directed our attention to our storytelling or the Liturgy of the Word, and today the focus will be on our meal-sharing or the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

## **UNIVERSAL PRAYERS**

### **CELEBRANT:**

On this World Mission Sunday, "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard." We remember Jesus' call to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. We ask God's blessing that, through our self-giving and speaking about our faith, the "Good News" of Jesus may be proclaimed to all nations and peoples.

### **LECTOR:**

- 1) For the Church, that we may all be imbued with true missionary spirit, and be given the courage to proclaim the good news in what we say and what we do, near and far, to the neighbor we know and the neighbor we haven't yet met, we pray.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples and dedicated to building a world at peace, we pray.
- 3) For an increase in missionary charity, that our spiritual and financial sacrifices may help the missions, we pray.
- 4) 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.
- 5) For those who are ill or who live in spiritual loneliness, especially as we recover from the pandemic, that they may unite their sufferings with the Crucified Christ for the redemption of the world, we pray.

### **CELEBRANT:**

God our Father, You bless us with the gift of faith. Increase our faith — and give us courage to speak about it and share it to the ends of the earth. Through Christ our Lord.

## **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 Word**

Whereas last Sunday the readings focused on the trials and sufferings of our Lord and the service to which we are all called, today's readings celebrate the joy that our faith in God brings.

Jeremiah (first reading) tells how God will gather the Chosen People from the ends of the earth. The letter to the Hebrews (second reading) reminds us that God calls all who lead the church, and in fact sent the great high priest, Jesus Christ, into the world. In the Gospel, Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus, who leaves his former way of life behind to follow Jesus. May we be blessed with his courage.

### **1st Reading – Jeremiah 31:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. <sup>8</sup>Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. <sup>9</sup>They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 126)**

**“The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.”**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. <sup>2ab</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

**R.**

<sup>2bc</sup>Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

**R.**

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. <sup>5</sup>Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

**R.**

<sup>6</sup>Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves. **R.**

## **2nd Reading – Hebrews 5:1-6**

Brothers and sisters: <sup>1</sup>Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness <sup>3</sup>and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. <sup>4</sup>No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you; <sup>6</sup>just as he says in another place: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

**Alleluia** – (Cf. 2 Timothy 1:10)

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

**Lector:** <sup>10</sup>Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel – Mark 10:46-52**

<sup>46</sup>As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup>On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” <sup>48</sup>And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me.” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Jesus said to him in reply, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man replied to him, “Master, I want to see.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

*All Saints Day is 8 days away.*

I will say the Novena of Masses for the faithful departed starting with our Mass at 6 pm on Monday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. I will say the rest of the Masses privately.

If you want to include your deceased relatives in the novena, take a novena envelope at the entrance. Write on it the names of your deceased relatives, put inside it your donation, and drop the filled-in envelope in the collection basket next weekend.

***November 1<sup>st</sup> is ALL SAINTS DAY — a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass on that day, which is a Monday, will be at 6:00 PM.***

## **RE: THE FIRST READING**

How appropriate that we read this passage from Jeremiah as we approach All Saints Day and All Souls' Day. Jeremiah speaks of God gathering the faithful from the ends of the world, guiding them "so that none shall stumble" (Jeremiah 31:9). They departed in tears, but will return rejoicing.

In the same way, God draws the faithful from all the earth to the heavenly kingdom. May God console us as we reap what we have sown in tears.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THE TRUE IDENTITY OF JESUS**

The question that Jesus asks Bartimaeus in today's Gospel is almost exactly the same as the one we heard him ask James and John last week: "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:36, 10:51). But whereas James and John asked for power and glory, not seeing what they were asking of Jesus, Bartimaeus, the blind man, sees Jesus for who he is and asks for healing. Granted his request, Bartimaeus immediately followed Jesus. In other words, he immediately became a disciple. Bartimaeus had been physically blind, but he had the eyes of faith all along.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jesus has been telling the disciples that he would suffer and die. They are blind to what he is trying to tell them. The blind man Bartimaeus sees with the eyes of faith, and becomes an example to them, and to us.

\*\*\*\*\*

Question to ponder: How would I answer the question Jesus has asked the last two weeks: "What do you want me to do for you?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Believing leads to seeing. Bartimaeus sees Jesus for who he is. On the other hand, the disciples seem to exemplify the adage, "There is none so blind as he who will not see." Ask yourself the hard questions: what kind of "eyes" do I have? Do I see what I ought to see (and act) as a believer, that is, am I a true disciple?

\*\*\*\*\*

Jesus expects that those who recognize him and believe in him will follow "on the way." In responding to Jesus' call, Bartimaeus "threw aside his cloak." For the poor, the homeless, the handicapped, the widow and orphan, their cloak was their most precious possession. It kept them warm and they slept in it, for instance. Bartimaeus's throwing his cloak aside means he gave up everything to approach and follow Jesus. This is the way of the disciple.

**There is no pecking order, no status involved when it comes to following Jesus.**

Because of his disability, Bartimaeus would have been viewed by many as another unlikely candidate (along with the "morally disabled" tax collectors and prostitutes) for discipleship.

**To "see" Jesus is to follow him.**

## **WHERE HAVE YOU CHRISTIANS BEEN?**

The following supposedly true-to-life story has often been told. It happened in China some 70 years ago, that is to say, before the Communists expelled the missionaries.

A missionary came upon an old woman by the wayside, deserted, cold, and hungry.

"Why do you bother about me?" the old lady whispered feebly when the priest tried to help her as best as he could. "Nobody else cares. Why should you?"

"God made you and me," the missionary replied. "He said to go out over the world and help everyone who is in need."

Pondering over the words of the priest, she said, "What a beautiful religion. Where did it come from? Who started it?" Whereupon the priest started to teach her about God who sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to bring salvation to all men.

"Your Christ," the old woman went on, "He isn't long dead, is he?" When the priest said that he died almost two thousand years ago, she was amazed. "Do you mean to say that it has been almost two thousand years ago since Christ commanded his followers to spread the good news of his love for mankind? Why, where have you Christians been all this time?"

This might well be the hard question addressed to us as we celebrate MISSION SUNDAY today. Our Lord's command is clear: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to every nation." And, lest we think otherwise, evangelization is the task not only of priests and religious but of every baptized Christian.

One does not have to work in the frontier missions to be a missionary. St. Therese of the Child Jesus is the patroness of Catholic missions yet, ironically, she never stepped out of the walls of her Carmelite cloister! She merited the title because of her burning obsession to save souls by offering every little sacrifice, every little suffering for the conversion of immortal souls.

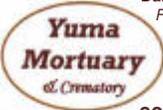
We may not be able to give ourselves totally for the missions like some religious or lay missionaries do, but surely we can give a part of ourselves by means of prayers, sacrifices, and financial contribution.

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