

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**33rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time, Year B
November 14, 2021**

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

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

HYMNS:

Entrance: — 628
How Great Thou Art!

Recessional: — 715
Though the Mountains.....

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

A SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN NEXT WEEKEND: COLLECTION FOR NATIONAL NEEDS

Next weekend has been designated for the **2021 Collection for National Needs**. Special envelopes are available for the collection which supports the Black and Indian Missions, the Catholic Home Missions, the Catholic Communication Campaign, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your generosity. **Envelopes for this collection will be distributed after Mass today.**

A TALK ON THE EUCHARIST ON Nov 27 & 28.

Per Bishop McElroy's recommendation, I will give a Talk on the Eucharist in Advent especially to answer questions that parishioners may still be asking regarding the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian Life. The Talks will take the place of the Holy Hour on Nov 27-28 (First Sunday of Advent). In other words, on that weekend there will be no confessions and NO Holy Hour.

There will be no Penance Service in Advent. Instead, I will be available for Confessions for one hour during all the Holy Hours in December, that is, throughout the duration of each Holy Hour.

COLLECTIONS:

November 1, 6, 7: \$ 998.00
Via Online, Nov. 5 —10: \$ 305.00
All Souls Novena: \$ 759.00



UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

CELEBRANT:

Assured of God's tender care even if heaven and earth should pass away, we call out in faith with our needs and the needs of the world.

LECTOR:

For the Church, that our vigilance in keeping watch for the day when the Son of Man will return in glory may lead us to redouble our efforts to lead many to justice by sharing and living the Good News, let us pray.

For our leaders, that by heeding the prophetic voices that shine brightly in the firmament, they may lead many to justice during times of darkness and tribulation, let us pray.

For the safety of missionaries the world over as they fulfill their commitment to preach and live out the gospel in neglected and distressed communities, let us pray.

For those who have been victimized by the horrible actions or disgraceful inaction of those in authority, that they may experience healing and hope, let us pray.

For the sick and all who are in medical treatment, for those who are enduring hardships and have given up hope, that they may be comforted, let us pray.

For our loved ones who have died, that they may forever shine in the light of eternal life in the splendor of the firmament, let us pray.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

Lord of all, you hold us, your children, in your loving embrace. Listen to the needs we voice today and grant them through your Son, Jesus 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 Day

The month of November is the time when the Church traditionally recalls those who have gone before us. We pray for their souls and we hope to be reunited with them when we ourselves die.

As it is the end of the liturgical year (it will begin anew in two weeks with Advent), we also bring to mind the end of time.

Thus, today we are reminded that one day Jesus will return in glory as the world comes to an earth-shattering conclusion. As frightening as the warnings are in today's readings, they are accompanied by assurances that God remains with us. Always.

Indeed, soon we will be reminded that Emmanuel means "God is with us." Jesus—Emmanuel—will return in glory at the end of time.

Let us pray in thanksgiving today for God's abiding presence with us here on earth.

1st Reading – Daniel 12:1-3

¹In those days, I Daniel, heard this word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. ²"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. ³"But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

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

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11)

"You are my inheritance, O Lord."

⁵O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. ⁸I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R.

⁹Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; ¹⁰because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R.

¹¹You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

R.

2nd Reading – Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Brothers and sisters: ¹¹Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But this one offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; ¹³now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin.

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

Alleluia – (Cf. Luke 21:3)

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

Lector: Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to stand before the Son of Man.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴"In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, ²⁷and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

²⁸"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. ³⁰Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The End Times in Apocalyptic Writing

Today's first reading and Gospel use apocalyptic language and imagery to express the end times. Thus, they announce upheavals in human history and cataclysm in the heavenly bodies. Precisely because they are apocalyptic in nature, we have to distinguish between picture and content:

The chaos symbolizes the fall of the old order that will be replaced by the new one through God's definitive intervention. Rather than instill fear, therefore, God's word strengthens us in hope.

The budding forth of the fig tree that Jesus points out in the Gospel symbolizes this hope: life comes after death, a new world is being born in pain and toil. This is something that nature itself seems to take for granted.

What is true of the change in the season is also true of the life in the Spirit in us. The Spirit transforms old to new, chaos to order, sorrow to joy, bleakness to optimism, death to life.

A Backgrounder:

The word "apocalyptic" is derived from the Greek word "apokalypsis," a word which means revelation. Apocalyptic writings reveal to God's people what is going to take place in the end. Usually they were composed during times of persecution to give hope to God's people. The message usually was that if God's people remained faithful to God, their sufferings would soon be at an end and God will initiate an era of peace. This era of peace was spoken of as God's reign or God's kingdom.

Today's First Reading — an example of apocalyptic writing.

At that time, the Greeks had conquered the Orient and came to Jerusalem in 332 B.C. Matters reached a head when in 168 B.C. they desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews were forced to adopt the pagan religion of the Greeks otherwise they were persecuted and killed. The time was described as "unsurpassed in distress."

In today's passage, Daniel predicts that after these and other persecutions the Archangel Michael, the guardian of the Jews, will come to the aid of God's people. Those dead (death is only a sleep) will arise. There will be resurrection to glory for those who remained faithful and a resurrection to everlasting horror for those who had not.

The Gospel of today speaks about the Parousia or second coming of Christ.

After great tribulations, of which the first reading spoke in more details, the second coming of Christ will take place.

The glorified Christ will come and gather the elect, that is, those who have lived as God has desired we should. In today's Gospel, Jesus is telling us that the whole cosmos will signal his coming. **The sun and moon and stars will no longer be needed, for Christ Himself will be our light.**

But of that day or hour, no one knows.

Throughout Scripture, we hear these words. We have only to look at life around us to know that they are true. A pandemic comes without warning; a flash flood sweeps a car away; a building collapses in the middle of the night.

One should not worry about the end of the world. Worry rather whether or not you are holding on to your faith or living as a Christian should despite the harsh adversities.

According to the Scriptures, on Judgment Day we shall be judged on the question: What have you done for people in need? (Read Matthew 25:31-46).

As the church is concluding another liturgical year in two weeks' time, it might be proper to pause and do some soul-searching. Am I preoccupied only with my personal needs and pleasures? Do I have time for God, my family, and for some outreach project? Am I contributing to building our parish, to supporting what is just, to be an instrument of love and peace or am I the cause of pain and suffering to others?

Everything that we do now has eternal consequences. Judgment will be nothing else but God's **confirmation** of the choices, decisions or actions we have made in life. What we sow now, we reap later.



"A doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so the doctor gave him another six months."

Most of us deny death. Even if a doctor says we only have six months to live, we don't really believe it. There can always be a miracle. Right?

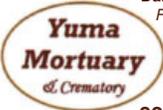
In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the end times and assures us that no one knows the day nor the hour. Only the Father knows. And so, as long as we are prepared, that's good news, isn't it?

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