

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

3rd Sunday of Advent, C  
December 12, 2021

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

Website: [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org)

Tel: 760-572-0283

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

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa  
Pastor

**Entrance Hymn:** — 311  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(verses 1-3)

**Recessional Hymn:** — 311  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(verses 4-6)

## SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour  
and Individual Confessions  
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

## SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour  
and Individual Confessions  
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

## A Second Collection This Weekend

The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken right after Holy Communion at our Masses this weekend. Special envelopes for this collection were distributed last weekend. They are also available at the church entrance.

In regard to this collection, our bishop wrote: *Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more.*

*I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.*

## REMINDER:

### December 25 and 26 Schedule:

Dec. 25 (Saturday) – Christmas/Nativity of the Lord:  
Mass at 8:30 am.

Dec. 26 (Sunday) – Feast of the Holy Family:  
Mass at 8:30 am.

To all, please take home with you a 2022 calendar,  
available at the Church entrance.

\*\*\*\*\*

To those who are using numbered Contribution Envelopes, your respective sets of envelopes for 2022 are on the table at the church entrance ready for pickup after Mass.

## The Mystery of Faith:

When we eat this Bread and drink this  
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

## Prayer of the Faithful

### CELEBRANT:

Filled with expectation during this holy season of Advent, we look to the unequalled generosity of God, attentive to our sisters and brothers in need. Let our response be: *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

### LECTOR:

For our Church as we proclaim with joy the coming of the reign of God, we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

That world leaders may look beyond past divisions and rivalries and work together to bring justice and peace, we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

That the people of the Americas may find in Our Lady of Guadalupe a model of compassion and kindness we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

For all those who are suffering from loss at this time of year, that they may be comforted in their grief and find joy in God's love for us all, we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

For all who live with chronic illness, that in the care they receive from family, friends, and caregivers they may know the love of our Savior, we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray... *Be born in us, be born in our world.*

### CELEBRANT:

Generous God, bestow upon us the grace to understand your divine will so that we can answer the Gospel plea: "What should we do?" Bless us in our efforts to carry out your will through your Son, our Lord, whose coming we proclaim in joyous expectation. Amen.

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

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

Another name for this Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday. This name is taken from the entrance antiphon, which is itself a quote from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Our Advent season of preparation is already halfway over. How have your preparations gone so far? It is never too late to prepare for the coming of God in our hearts, so let us pray today for hearts evermore open to the presence of God.

## **1st Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

<sup>14</sup>Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. <sup>16</sup>On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, <sup>18a</sup>as one sings at festivals.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)**

## **Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

<sup>2</sup>God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R.**

<sup>4</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**R.**

## **2nd Reading – Philippians 4:4-7**

Brothers and sisters: <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. <sup>7</sup>Then the peace of

God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**Alleluia** – (Isaiah 61:1; cited in Luke 4:18)

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

**Lector:** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel — Luke 3:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" <sup>11</sup>He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed."

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.

<sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Shout for Joy**

As we reach the middle of Advent, we anticipate a little more fully the joy of the feast to come. Thus, today's readings deliver a more joyful message:

The first reading joyfully exhorts: "Shout for joy...the Lord is in your midst." (Zephaniah 3:17).

The responsorial psalm proclaims, "Among you is the great and holy one of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6).

The second reading proclaims "Rejoice in the Lord always... The Lord is near," (Philippians 4:5).

In the Gospel, John the Baptist attests that the one to follow is greater than he, for "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16).

**To guide us to an authentic experience of Christian joy at Christmas,** today's gospel presents John the Baptist who, after his desert experience, came roaring like a lion, calling for repentance. He was so disturbing that even a delegation from the Jewish authorities had gone down all the way from Jerusalem to interview this strange man and find out who he was. John just said that he was only preparing the way for a greater one who would come after him and would baptize not just with water as he did but with the Holy Spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*

As baptized Christians, we have already received the Holy Spirit. God is already with us. So we can already witness to God's presence, and we do this through our actions. "What should we do?" John is asked three times in the Gospel. He tells inquirers to share with those in need, to treat others fairly, and to be content with what they have. In today's second reading, Paul sums it up when he tells the Philippians to make their kindness known to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

A prophet in the true sense, John the Baptist came not to speak of things the people would like to hear but only of what the Spirit directed him to speak. He was one who did not mince words to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The "comfortable" who were disturbed by his harsh fulminations asked: "What must we do?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Thus — even though today is *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Rejoicing — today's liturgy of the Word challenges us to allow ourselves to be disturbed because we, too, easily forget in these hectic days of feasting and shopping what this season is all about.

\*\*\*\*\*

To be "disturbed" is to find or put ourselves in the same situation as Adam and Eve were after the Fall, that is to say, after they had eaten the fruit of the tree they were ordered to avoid, when God confronted them — Genesis 3:9-15, 21 (which was the first reading of the Mass last December 8th — Feast of the Immaculate Conception). There God reveals Himself as One who searches, who questions, and who encounters.

I would like to outline here once more my reflection on it which appeared in our mini Bulletin/missalette last Dec. 8th. Why? Because the images of God displayed in that "confrontation" are relevant to repentance or conversion which is the spirit of the Advent season.

During the Advent season, find time for silent prayer and meditation where you encounter the same images of God. In the context of today, how does God confront us?

**(1) The God who searches:** As God asked Adam and Eve, *Where are you?* (Gen 3:9), each one of us should ask: Where am I now? Compared to a year ago or some months ago, where am I? Far from God or closer to God?

**(2) The God who questions:** As God asked Adam and Eve, *Who told you you were naked?* (Gen 3:11), so each one of us should ask: Of the people I associate with these days, who are those that lead me to God? And who are those who lead me away from God?

As God asked Adam and Eve, *Why did you do such a thing?* (Gen 3:13), we realize we are face to face with our innermost self. Renewal or recollection is knowing the whys of our life. So, each one should ask and answer the question: Why did I do it? It is here that conversion to God or transformation of self takes place.

**(3) The God who encounters:** "For the man and his wife the Lord God made leather garments with which he clothed them." (Gen 3:21). God does not reject us in our nakedness. He embraces us.

### **A concrete example of allowing oneself to be "disturbed" that leads to Transformation**

Edith Stein was a German Catholic philosopher who had been born into an observant Jewish family. By her teenage years, she had become a staunch atheist. In 1921, she happened upon the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila.

She began reading and immediately realized that it contained the truth for which she had been searching. This began a years-long transformation that eventually led her to become a Carmelite nun, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. In 1942 she was arrested and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where she died in the gas chamber. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1998.

*Edith Stein stubbornly clung to her atheistic beliefs. Like her, we want to go our own way instead of according to God's way. We must realize this and pray for the grace of humility. This requires facing God who searches, who questions, who encounters us — and leads us to making a choice: Do we want to serve ourselves, or do we want to serve God?*

### **Collections:**

December 4-5 — \$ 891.00

Via Online:

December 5-7 — \$ 205.00



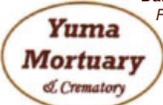
**Support Your  
Parish Offertory**

**AVAILABLE FOR  
A LIMITED TIME!**

**ADVERTISE HERE NOW!**

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

Darren S. Mattice  
Funeral Director  
Owner



**Yuma  
Mortuary**  
& Crematory

928.782.9865  
775 S 5th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364  
[Darren@yumamortuary.com](mailto:Darren@yumamortuary.com)  
[www.yumamortuary.com](http://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](mailto:careers@4lpi.com)  
[www.4lpi.com/careers](http://www.4lpi.com/careers)

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE  
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**



**\$29.95/MO**

PLUS  
SPECIAL  
OFFER

**BILLED QUARTERLY**

**CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772**

[WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM](http://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



Authorized  
Provider

SafeStreets

**1-855-225-4251**

**YUMA** automotive &  
transmission **SERVICE**

**Brett Simala** 928.783.6111

**Stan Simala** fax:928.783.2818

841 20th Avenue

[yatracing45@hotmail.com](mailto:yatracing45@hotmail.com) Yuma, AZ 85364

[www.YumaAutoAndTrans.com](http://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](http://www.ParishesOnline.com)**



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

Saint Thomas Indian Mission Church, Winterhave, CA

A 4C 05-1147