

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

2nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time, C
January 16, 2022

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance Hymn: — 607
Sing A New Song
Recessional Hymn: — 849
They'll Know
We Are Christians

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

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

From the beginning, Jesus' ministry occurred in real life, addressing real-life concerns. It was at a wedding feast that Jesus performed his first miracle, changing water into wine.

Though we are not here today to celebrate a wedding, today's celebration includes both feast and miracle, ones we often take for granted.

Let us consider the miracle that takes place in our presence today—the bread and wine becoming Christ's Body and Blood—and give thanks to the Lord for the invitation we have been given to this Eucharistic feast.

The Challenge of Unity

This week marks two observances that highlight the ongoing struggle for unity in society and in the church.

Monday, Jan. 17, is a holiday in our country honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Though Dr. King is remembered especially for his efforts to overcome the divisions between blacks and whites, his vision was of unity among peoples and peace in the world.

A second observance that aims toward unity is the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This week runs from Jan. 18-25 every year.

In your daily prayer especially this week, include a prayer for the unity of all Christians. You could pray for members of a different nearby Christian church each day this week, thus reminding us that the local Christian community is much larger than our own parish or the Catholic parishes in our area.

Please don't forget that Jan. 22 - this Saturday,

is to be observed as a particular day of *prayer* for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of *penance* for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

It was on Jan. 22, 1973 that the Supreme Court (Roe v. Wade) legalized abortion in this country.

Universal Prayers

CELEBRANT: Gifted by the Spirit, let us offer our prayers and petitions to our loving God.

LECTOR:

This week is observed by many Christians as "Church Unity Week." Let us pray for church leaders who are seeking unity and for a spirit of tolerance and hospitality among Christians, we pray.

That, inspired by the model of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., all the citizens of this nation may work to fight injustice anywhere, we pray.

For an increase in awareness of the holiness of human life, from conception to natural death, and especially for unborn children, we pray.

Let us pray for all those whose lives are at risk ... for the very old and the very young and those yet to be born ... for the poor, disabled, imprisoned, unemployed, uneducated ... for those without hope for their future, we pray.

Let us pray for those who are sick and have asked for our prayers ... for all who are worried about their health; those awaiting the result of tests and those hoping for a remission from life-threatening illnesses, we pray.

We remember those who have died. For those who mourn the passing of a loved one and for those who have died with no one to mourn them, we pray.

CELEBRANT: Loving God, you sent the Holy Spirit to us who continually blesses us with gifts, gifts that lead us home to you. Listen to our needs and grant our prayers in the name of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 Word

Today's readings reveal the transformative effect God has upon the world.

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies that God will transform the Israelites and their land from "forsaken" to "espoused," as a suitor rejoices in his bride.

In the second reading, Paul extols the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which transform each person differently, but all to serve the same Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus transforms water into wine at a wedding in Cana, revealing his glory and inspiring his disciples to believe in him. Listening to God's word, let us consider how God transforms us and our world.

1st Reading – Isaiah 62:1-5

¹For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

²Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. ³You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God.

⁴No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. ⁵As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10)

"Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations."

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. ^{2a}Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R.

^{2b}Announce his salvation, day after day. ³Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R.

⁷Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise; ^{8a}give to the LORD the glory due his name!

R.

⁹Worship the LORD in holy attire. Tremble before him, all the earth; ¹⁰Say among the nations: The LORD is king. He governs the peoples with equity. **R.**

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: ⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; ⁵there are different forms of service but the same Lord; ⁶there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

⁷To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another, the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit; ¹⁰to another, mighty deeds; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, varieties of tongues; to another, interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

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

Alleluia – (2 Thessalonians 2:14)

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

Lector: ¹⁴God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – John 2:1-11

¹There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. ³When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So, they took it. ⁹And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from although the servers who had drawn the water knew, the headwaiter called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A MODEL CHRISTIAN PRAYER OF PETITION:

“When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine’.” (John 2:3).

Mary’s emphatic statement at the wedding feast of Cana --- “They have no wine” --- was a prayer. That prayer was answered in a way that was likely far beyond her expectations---some 150 gallons of choice wine. Mary simply brought her concern to Jesus, without specifying how or when he should respond.

When we make a prayer of petition, we often mention how we would like our prayer answered. In today’s gospel Mary shows us how to make a prayer of petition. Instead of telling the Lord how and when we would like our request answered, we just express our concern and trust that Jesus has a better answer.

If a little child has an earache, the child does not designate the cure but just cries out for a parent, who will know what’s best to do. If we have that same deep trust in God, we can express our hurts, fears, or any of our concerns and feel assured our loving God will know what is best to do.

From *Cana* to the *Last Supper* to our *Eucharistic Celebration*

As mentioned in the Gospel of John, it was just three days after his baptism that Jesus attended a *wedding at Cana* where, in the presence of his newly called disciples, he transformed the water into wine.

At the *Last Supper*, in the presence of his disciples for the last time before his death, Jesus changed the wine into his blood.

Today, at this *Eucharistic feast*, gathered with fellow disciples and in the presence of the Lord, once again the wine is transformed into his blood. John says what happened in Cana was the beginning of Jesus’ signs. But as we witness today and every time we gather for the Eucharist, there is no end to these signs.

In partaking in the Eucharist, we are transformed by Christ’s Body and Blood. No matter how we feel about ourselves, we are not forsaken or desolate. We are God’s children, each a cause for God’s rejoicing, continually transformed and renewed in holiness as Christians.

Private Gifts are Common Property

Today’s second reading depicts a situation in the Corinthian community founded by Paul. Individuals were flaunting their special gifts. They were a divided community, and their boasting about charisms merely illustrated the division.

In reply, Paul insisted on the origin of such gifts – namely, God. He established this hierarchy: community first and individuals second. He preached, “To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit” (v. 7). For Paul, private gifts are common property. In other words, for a true follower of Jesus, whatever special gift or talent given by the Holy Spirit is to be used for the community.

Let’s use our gifts. Question to ponder:

What talents do I have that can be used to serve the Lord? — *Ministers to the sick*, who extend the spiritual gifts of faith and healing; *active in fundraisers*, putting into action the spiritual gift of mighty deeds; *extraordinary minister of communion*; *lector*; *usher/money collector*; *church cleaner*, etc..

Let’s look for opportunities.

In today’s gospel, Jesus did not attend the wedding at Cana, intending to be a sign of God’s power. But the opportunity to do so presented itself, and he supplied what was needed in that moment.

Each day is full of little moments that offer us opportunities to serve, to be a sign (i.e., perhaps opportunities involving members of the family, or neighbors; or fellow workers, or fellow parishioners, or friends, acquaintances, etc,

When we respond to the opportunities, we live up to the name of “My Delight.” When we use our spiritual gifts in the service of the Lord, we extend that delight, joy, and happiness, to others.

And when we seize the opportunities to serve others by being signs of God’s love and power, we do indeed bring forth God’s kingdom on earth.

God delights in inviting us to the Holy Eucharist, the banquet that strengthens us to use our spiritual gifts in the service of others and of the Lord.

Imperial Valley Spring Forward 2022 Conference: “The Eucharist & Social Justice”:

Parish ministers, as well as others who may be interested, are invited to our annual Spring Forward conference in the Imperial Valley with presenter, Rev. Eduardo Fernández, SJ. Theme: How the Eucharist nourishes us to be missionary disciples sent out to a world in great need. Join us on Saturday, January 29, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 795 La Brucherie Road, El Centro 92243, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Registration cost is \$15. For more info: www.sdccatholicdisciples.net/events/imperial-valley-spring-forward.



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Via Online from 1/5 to 1/11: **\$ 425.00**

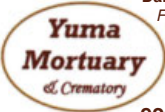
Note: The collections taken during the Masses last weekend, January 8-9, will be reported in next week’s Bulletin.

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