

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, C**  
January 23, 2022

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

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

**Entrance Hymn: — 820**  
**One Bread, One Body**

**Recessional Hymn: — 708**  
**Blest Be the Lord**

## 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 **Word of God** Sunday

In his *motu proprio* of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit Illis*, Pope Francis has declared that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God.

This *Sunday of the Word of God* will thus be a fitting part of that time of year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.....

A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers" (8).

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*Motu Proprio* (Latin: "**on one's own initiative**"), in the Roman Catholic church, is a papal document personally signed by the pope to signify his special interest in the subject.

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The title, "*Aperuit illis*," is taken from Luke 24:45, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

## Universal Prayers

### CELEBRANT:

Gathered as the people of God, sustained by the Word of God, and called to be disciples of Christ, together let us pray:

### LECTOR:

For the Church — that rooted in the Word of God, may we be a shining witness to God's law of love for all people, especially in this challenging time, (**Silence**), we pray.

For those who govern — that they may persevere in their work to achieve liberty and justice for all, especially the marginalized and forgotten, (**Silence**), we pray.

For health workers — that they will not be overwhelmed in this time of pandemic, will always preserve the dignity of those in their care and will receive appropriate acknowledgment and support for their work, (**Silence**), we pray.

For the sick and the dying — may the Holy Spirit bestow comfort on them and their families in their hour of need (**Silence**), we pray.

For ourselves — that as members of the one body of Christ, we will seek greater unity, generously contribute the talents we have, and honor, nurture, and encourage the gifts of others, (**Silence**), we pray.

### CELEBRANT:

O generous God, in our Baptism you have made us members of Christ's body. Empower us to live the law of love that Jesus proclaimed as good news, even when it is inconvenient or painful. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



## Collections:

January 8-9..... \$499.00

January 15-16 ... \$1,399.00

Via Online from 1/16 to 1/18:

**\$ 105.00**

## 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**

We gather together today to worship the Lord, as faithful people have done throughout history. Two noteworthy examples are described in our readings.

When *Ezra* the priest read the Torah in the streets of Jerusalem after the Jewish people had returned from exile, it brought people to tears.

When *Jesus* read from the prophet Isaiah in his hometown synagogue, he revealed that he himself was the fulfillment of that passage.

As we worship today on this ordinary day in Ordinary Time, let us consider the blessing of being able to listen to the word of God and to partake in this Eucharistic feast.

### **1st Reading – Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

<sup>2</sup>Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. <sup>3</sup>Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

<sup>4a</sup>Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. <sup>5</sup>He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it for he was standing higher up than any of the people; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. <sup>6</sup>Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

<sup>9</sup>Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: "Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep" for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

<sup>10</sup>He said further: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!"

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

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15):**  
***"Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life."***

<sup>8</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; The decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**

<sup>9</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.

**R.**

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; The ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just.

**R.**

<sup>15</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart find favor before you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**R.**

### **2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Brothers and sisters: <sup>12</sup>As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Now the body is not a single part, but many. <sup>15</sup>If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. <sup>16</sup>Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." <sup>22</sup>Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, <sup>23</sup>and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, <sup>24</sup>whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, <sup>25</sup>so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. <sup>28</sup>Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?  
*The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*

**Alleluia** – (See Luke 4:18)

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

**Lector:** <sup>18</sup>The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel – Luke 1:1-4 4:14-21**

<sup>1</sup>Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, <sup>3</sup>I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

<sup>14</sup>Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region.

<sup>15</sup>He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

<sup>16</sup>He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day.

He stood up to read <sup>17</sup>and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: <sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. <sup>21</sup>He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

### **Re: Today's First Reading**

Upon their return after fifty years of exile in Babylon, the priest Ezra, along with Nehemiah, governor of Judah, led the Jews in their efforts to rebuild their nation. In order to remind the people that God had to take first place in their lives, Nehemiah called for a general assembly of the people and the priest Ezra read God's word to them.

Most of the people gathered around Ezra that day had never worshiped in Jerusalem before, never worshiped in so large a gathering, never worshiped in public. They are hearing God's word proclaimed openly for the first time in their lives. Even the older folks could barely recall what it was like before their exile.

We may have felt the same way sometimes over the last two years. For months or over a year we did not join in communal worship. We rejoiced when we were able to return. Imagine the tears of joy shed by the faithful people of Judah when they were able to assemble freely for the first time in decades.

### **Re: Today's Second Reading**

Saint Paul reminds us of the importance of community. He builds his analogy of the body, ending by pointing out that “if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26). We are all members of the body of Christ, of the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”

We need to come to Mass, to pray together as one community. We do need to because we are part of the body of Christ and we can't say we don't need one another.

When we separate ourselves from one another, we are denying the spiritual gifts God has given to others to help us and we are denying to others the spiritual gifts God has given us to help them.

We need God's word and we need to share our faith with each other.

### **Re: Today's Gospel**

I would like to focus on the words “**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit**” (Luke 4:14).

Let us recall that at Jesus' baptism which inaugurates his public ministry, “... the Holy Spirit descended upon him ...” (cf. Luke 3:22).

Afterwards, “filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert ...” (Luke 4:1).

Then, in today's Gospel, “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit” (Luke 4:14).

In other words, Jesus' whole public life was lived under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We have received the same Holy Spirit at our Baptism. We are thus reminded today that we should live God's Word under the direction of the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit or Spirit of Jesus that opens our minds to understand the Scriptures, *Aperuit Illis* (Latin for “He opened their minds”) as the Pope's *Motu Proprio* is entitled, to refer to Luke 24:45 -- “where the Risen Lord opened the minds of the confused disciples to understand the Scriptures.”

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

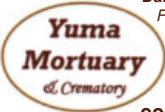
Parish ministers, as well as others who may be interested, are invited to our annual Spring Forward conference in the Imperial Valley with presenter, Rev. Eduardo Fernández, SJ. Theme: How the Eucharist nourishes us to be missionary disciples sent out to a world in great need. Join us on Saturday, January 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.sdcatholicdisciples.net/events/imperial-valley-spring-forward](http://www.sdcatholicdisciples.net/events/imperial-valley-spring-forward).

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