

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C
January 30, 2022

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

Website: www.stthomasindianmission.org

Email: saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com

Tel: 760-572-0283

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance Hymn: — 628
How Great Thou Art

Recessional Hymn: — 706
Be Not Afraid

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

Re: The Parish Synodal Process

Within next month (February), we will announce the date in March for the parish small-group sharing session or sessions of 6 to 8 persons per group. These sessions will last approximately 2.5-3 hours.

All parishioners are invited to attend; however, pre-registration is required. Those who would like to participate need to register two weeks before the date for the sessions.

Universal Prayers

CELEBRANT:

We pray now, as people called to live God's word in every circumstance of our lives.

LECTOR:

For Pope Francis and all in the Church — that we may be strengthened in our mission to spread the Good News, finding in the Lord refuge and protection, (**Silence**), we pray.

For those in authority in every nation — that they might listen to the true prophets among us and seek to build a world of unity, peace, and justice, (**Silence**), we pray.

For the United States as the nation celebrates Black History month — for anyone who has suffered from the scourge of racism, those who deny its lingering reality, and those seeking justice for all people, (**Silence**), we pray.

For Catholic schools throughout our country: — May they continue to form young people who will live and proclaim the gospel in their lives, (**Silence**), we pray.

For those who are most vulnerable — the very old and the very young and those yet to be born; those who are sick or in pain; those with health issues; those who have lost a loved one; those who are without food or shelter or family, (**Silence**), we pray.

For ourselves — that we might be willing to surrender some things that we value for the sake of a love that goes far beyond our own families, (**Silence**), we pray.

CELEBRANT:

Loving God, we pray that you strengthen the love which unites families in peace and joy. And grant that our parish family may know the peace and unity which is a sign of your presence among us. We pray in the name of Jesus whom you sent and who sends us. Amen.

2021 TAX RETURNS

You may now request a printed summary of your contributions for the year 2021 by writing "2021 CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY"

on the back of the Sunday contribution envelope that you drop in the collection basket. I will mail it to you if you indicate your mailing address. Otherwise it will be placed on the table at the back of the Church for you to pick up after Mass. I praise and thank the Lord God for your support for the parish. May He reward you abundantly.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish employee can be made by contacting the diocese at 858-490-8353 or at www.sdccatholic.org.



Collections:

January 22-23..... \$ 676.00

Via Online from 1/19/22
to 1/25/22 ... \$ 425.00

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 Word

At the beginning of the book of Jeremiah (today's first reading), we hear how God called him to be a prophet; but even more important, we hear how *God promises to be with him* in his ministry to fortify and support him (See Jeremiah 1:19).

In the Gospel too, having started his ministry *in the power of the Spirit* (See Luke 4:14), Jesus speaks with confidence, even brashness in his hometown, yet by the grace of God is able to escape their wrath.

As we listen to these words of God today, let us allow them to give us the courage we need to witness to the gospel in our own lives.

1st Reading – Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying:

⁵Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

¹⁷But do you gird your loins; stand up and tell them all that I command you. Be not crushed on their account, as though I would leave you crushed before them; ¹⁸for it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass, against the whole land: against Judah's kings and princes, against its priests and people.

¹⁹They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17):

"I will sing of your salvation."

¹In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. ²In your justice rescue me, and deliver me; incline your ear to me, and save me.

R.

³Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress. ⁴O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

R.

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord; my trust, O God, from my youth. ⁶On you I depend from birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength.

R.

¹⁵My mouth shall declare your justice, day by day your salvation. ¹⁷O God, you have taught me from my youth, and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

R.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Brothers and sisters: ³¹Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

¹If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. ²And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, It is not inflated, ⁵it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, ⁶it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. ⁹For we know partially and we prophesy partially, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, ¹¹think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. ¹²At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

¹³So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

Alleluia – (See Luke 4:18)

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

Lector: ¹⁸The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Luke 4:21-30

²¹Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." ²²And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" ²³He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were

"Prophets normally aren't in the business of predicting the future. Their ministry revolves around confronting, not predicting. When they do mention the future, it is – as a respected Bible scholar has said -- "to provide us with the future implications of our present actions."

done in Capernaum.”²⁴ And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.

²⁵Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. ²⁶It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.

²⁷Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. ²⁹They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.

³⁰But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A Recapitulation Lest we miss what is Essential

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).

After 40 days in the desert where he overcame temptation by the devil, “**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit**” (Luke 4:14). And thus, in today’s Gospel, we see Jesus in the Galilean town of Nazareth — Jesus’ hometown, where in the town’s synagogue he speaks with confidence; we witness his strength in overcoming the hostile crowd facing him in his hometown.

What was the formula for Jesus success? Answer: **The Holy Spirit**. Jesus’ whole public life or life as a human being was one lived under the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Risen Lord Jesus breathes the same Holy Spirit into us at our Baptism. Thus, we are called to follow in Jesus’ footsteps, to live his life. The very first and essential step is that we recognize the Holy Spirit, that we subject ourselves to the Spirit’s direction and guidance – something that we can easily miss or take for granted. The following often-told story may aid in opening our eyes:

“The security guard at a wheelbarrow factory saw a worker coming out of the factory pushing a wheelbarrow with a suspicious looking package in it. The security guard opened the package and found it contained nothing but some old bits of rubbish and let the guy go. The next day he stopped the same worker who was again pushing a wheelbarrow containing a small box. The guard opened

the box and found it contained nothing but sawdust and floor-sweepings this time. The same thing happened several days on the trot, until the security guard finally said, ‘OK, I give up. I know you are up to something, but I just can’t tell what. Please, I promise not to report you, but put me out of my misery; tell me what you are stealing.’ ‘Wheelbarrows, ‘smiled the worker, ‘I’m stealing wheelbarrows.’”

The Holy Spirit is, so to say, the “wheelbarrow” in the public life of Jesus. As followers of Jesus it is essential that we be in the “wheelbarrow” – that is, that we put ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Christmas liturgical season already showed us that no one arrived in Bethlehem without divine guidance either through a star (for the magi) or angels (for the shepherds). Human knowledge is not enough as in the case of the chief priests and scribes who were serving the interests of Herod. They were knowledgeable and could show to the magi where the Messiah would be born but they themselves did not go to encounter the Lord.

The Scripture is not a text to be studied but primarily an encounter with the living Word. One may begin with a study of the text to ascertain its central message but the high point should be the prayerful reading that should follow. It consists of reading God’s word in a moment of prayer and allowing it to enlighten and renew us, that in the end it is telling us, “Go and do likewise.”

Re: The Second Reading

Paul reminds us how to speak the truth to someone. It is to speak it from the position of real love. Love is the willingness to put ourselves and our relationships on the line for the sake of Love itself. When we speak the truth to someone, it is from the position of service, not a position of superiority. It is from a position of love, not anger or jealousy or resentment. We are kind and patient. We want what is best for the other person, even if it will not work out the best for us.

(from *Reader’s Digest, Laughter – the Best Medicine*):

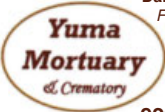
Overheard in a restaurant: a lady was telling her friend, “My husband and I had a big argument and we ended up not talking to one another for three days. Finally, on the third day he asked where one of his shirts was. I said ‘So, now you are talking to me.’ He looked confused and asked ‘What are you talking about?’ I said, ‘haven’t you noticed I haven’t spoken to you for three days?’ He said: ‘No, I just thought we were getting along.’”

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