



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II

St. Thomas Church

Today's Prayer

The more we call on God
the more we can feel God's
presence.
Day by day we are drawn closer
to the loving heart of God.

January 29th and 30th 2011

The Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time – Year A

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The word *beatitudes* is a translation of the Greek word *makarioi* meaning “blessings.” As taught by Jesus, Matthew lays down these eight “beatitudes” as prerequisite for membership in the kingdom of God. Matthew’s own predilection for Old Testament prototypes even locates this pivotal teaching on a mountainside just as Moses, the great lawgiver of the first testament, received the Ten Commandments (or *Decalogue*) on Sinai’s heights. These eight beatitudes or blessings are divided into two distinct groups. The first four deal those who *internally* yearn for the kingdom of God: the *poor in spirit* (not necessarily confined to the economically deprived); the *sorrowing* (just not the unhappy or dissatisfied); the *lowly* (not only the “underdog” or down and out) and those who *hunger and thirst for holiness*. They will be satisfied. The second four beatitudes (built on the first four) are those who *actively* seek to bring about the advent of the kingdom of God through vital engagement. Hence Jesus sets forth *those who show mercy*, the *single-hearted* (or “pure-hearted”), the *peacemakers* and the *unjustly persecuted* as being guaranteed a place in the kingdom of God. Much can be said of these blessings but the ultimate challenge is, do we seriously take and make them our own?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the kingdom of God is theirs. 2. Blessed are the sorrowing; they shall be comforted. 3. Blessed are the lowly; they shall inherit the earth. 4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall be satisfied. 5. Blessed are the merciful; mercy will be theirs; 6. Blessed are the single-hearted; they shall see God. 7. Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons and daughters of God. 8. Blessed are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the kingdom of God is theirs.

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at “wfaix@yahoo.com” or contact Dias Fernando at “diasfernando04@gmail.com” Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

STUDY OF THE SECOND READING

Congratulations! If you are reading this, you belong to the privileged of the world. You are literate and you have access to a computer hooked up to the internet. Statistically, you, like me, are educated, well-off, and have some measure of power (compared to the rest of the world). Yet, what does this education, wealth, and power ultimately give us? Bragging rights?

From one of more self-evident passages in Scripture, Paul reminded his audience (and us) that social place in the world was meaningless compared to standing before God. The community in Corinth had divided itself into cliques, based upon “doctrine” and presumed “wisdom.” These cliques filled themselves with self-importance. But, where did these groups stand in the eyes of God? Weren’t the rarified opinions they held of themselves unimportant? Furthermore, don’t the weak and powerless, ignorant and the foolish show off the glory of God to a greater extent than the educated movers and shakers of the world?

If we have any advantage in this world, it is based on grace, not on self-improvement or inherence. Grace gives us faith, hope, and love, not a street corner pulpit to promote our self-righteous self-importance. Grace gives us the virtue of awe, the sure knowledge of our place as creature before our God. Grace helps us see others as ourselves, saved sinners.

Collection Appeal

Please Contribute Generously to the Parish Collection as we are not meeting our required budget to run all of the activities. We thank you greatly for your kindness Our Weekly Budget is 10,000kč/week.

FEASTS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

January-February

30. *John Bosco* (+1888), the founder of the Salesian congregation dedicated to the education of the young, died this day.

February "is the shortest but the worse of all the months."

01. *Brigid of Ireland* (+525) called also "of Kildare" and "the Mary of the Gaels," *Patrick* (+461) and *Columba of Iona* (+597) are the three Patrons of the Irish people. According to Irish tradition, the eve of this saint's day was the last day of winter.
02. *THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE*. Called variously *Candlemas day* or *Gromniczna* recalls the presentation of the Lord by Mary and Joseph in the Temple. There the infant Messiah is recognized by Simeon and Anna as "salvation" and "light" of the world.
Today candles are blessed and lit at home during times of danger and devotions.
03. *Stephen Bellesini, OSA* (+1840) was a Tyrolean Augustinian friar, who after many vicissitudes managed to reestablish Augustinian monastic life following the suppressions of the French Revolutionary regime in Italy.
-*Blaise of Sebaste, Armenia* (+300) was a bishop known for his healing power. On this his feast day there will be blessing of throats immediately after Mass there will be blessing of throats for those who wish. Some medieval medical advice reads: *Evil for the throat- mustard, lying on one's chest, pepper, angry words, things roasted, overindulgence in carnal pleasure, much working and too much rest, much drink, old cheese and all things sour.*
-*Ansgar of Hamburg* (+865), was a French monk who initiated the evangelisation of the Scandinavian countries.
04. *Gilbert of Sempringham* (+1189)
05. *Agatha* (+280), a young Christian woman of Sicily, was terribly tortured for her Christian faith. A proverb reads: *St. Agatha defends thy house and family same, from fire and fearful flame.*

Ongoing Activities

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Bible Study sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

Prayer & worship

Each Sunday we are beginning with a prayer & worship from 10a.m. till 11a.m. in St. Barbara's Chapel. We will also be seeking people who would be willing to come and play an instrument while we worship and/or pray. We pray that the Lord moves more of our members to take action in prayer and worship, as there is much to pray for.

We are looking for a **English teacher** for our kinder garden. More information with Fr. Juan

Parish dance on the 25th of February in the Archbishops Palace. Please, buy the tickets with Michael Rainey

Report from Congo

We have received information about the situation in Congo where our Parish has many adoptees children.

I am thankful for the 2200\$ you sent through fr Bernard osa for the project of "War children in Dungu. In the attach I give a detailed account of that money and the impact it has had on poor children there. The director of the Kpezu primary school warned that there are many more displaced children who have arrived there after they lost one of their parents to the Ugandan rebels. My difficulty now is that I can not yet start with a orphanage since many children gathered together are good targets for the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army of Uganda).

In the attach you also find the photo of sr Jeanne Yengane osa killed on 15th January while returning from her work in the region (operation of the blind eyes). We are all shoked and troubled by her death. But we keep our hope to God.

Peace

P. Guillaumen Migbisiegbe, OSA

N°	Justification	Quantity	Cost
1	School Fees	21children	315\$
2	Monthly Contributions	21 x 2.5\$ x 10 moths	525 \$
3	Note Books	10 note books x 1\$ x 21	221\$
4	Pens	0.3\$ x 21 pens x 2	12.6\$
5	Uniform (special dress required by the school = white + blue)	10\$ x 21 x 2	420\$
6	Cloths	7\$ x 21 x 2	294\$
7	Shoes	5\$ x 21 x 2	210\$
8	Football	3 x 9\$	27\$
9	Fuel in the motorbyke	5 ltrs x 3.48\$	17.4\$
10	Reloading telephones of the AFND board (3persons)	3 x 5.5\$	16.5\$
11	The rest of money given to the president (Mme Anihili Florentine) for the health of children		141.5\$
12	TOTAL		2200\$

Saint Augustine's School **A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom**

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Thanks to all the member of the community that were helping on Saturday January 29th in the new school. We were preparing the classrooms for the school