



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

## 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.

February 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> 2011

The Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time – Year A

# St. Thomas Church

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## GOSPEL REFLEXION

Salt was, and still is, one of the most valuable foods. It is used to preserve food and in some cases employed as a medication (to gargle, for example). In ancient times, newborn children were often rubbed down with salt as a precaution against disease; soldiers and workers were often paid in salt hence our own word “salary” is derived from *salarium* (literally the Latin for “a salt block”).

Today's gospel reading brings to mind some of these connotations. Discipleship entails being “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth”; our faith in Jesus Christ is not a private or totally “personal matter.” We should be a “light” or at least a directional signal for others. Should they not be able to identify us as followers of Christ, what good are we? What good is salt “should it lose its flavor?” As always we are to look to Jesus for “the way.” Some become so distraught over the imminent advent of the kingdom of God that they forget that this rule or kingdom is already established among us through and in Jesus Christ.

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at “[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)” or contact Dias Fernando at “[diasfernando04@gmail.com](mailto: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

All of us like to hear a great speaker, a person who can instruct, entertain, and enlighten all at the same time. Many times we have high expectations when we go to see a well-known speaker. And, many times we come away from a talk disappointed. The speaker might not have fulfilled all three criteria for a good presentation.

Imagine if a speaker was proud of the fact he was not inspirational or entertaining. Paul was. In fact, Paul claimed he was not good at delivery, nor did he claim to have great insight. (We do not know if Paul was a good orator, but he was very insightful. So his claims were far too modest for his ability!) Instead, Paul insisted his ministry and message were based on the activity of God. Such a claim was rooted in his calling. Paul did not aspire to preaching; he claimed it was God's will for him. Indeed, his charisma might not have laid in oral delivery but in the work of the Spirit (healing, speaking in tongues, prophecy, etc.) Nevertheless, Paul held he did not try to promote himself. He always preached “Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

Some share their faith (“Jesus” small talk or the jewelry they wear) as a form of self-promotion. They would like known as “good” Christians. Others share their faith from their hearts. The former share what they want others to know about them. The latter share what they think others need to hear. Some use Jesus as a means of self-promotion. Others promote Jesus. Depth and sincerity really reveal the intention of the person who shares their faith.

## 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: February

10. *William of Millville* (+1157) was a soldier turned penitent who spent his days in penitential exercises. His Order of Williamites later were incorporated into the Augustinian religious family in 1256.  
-Pius XI died suddenly in 1939.
11. *Our Lady of Lourdes* is venerated since 1858 for her appearances to *Bernadette Soubirous*. Lourdes has become a center of healing and hope for thousands of pilgrims. Today has been designated *the International Day for the Sick and their Caregivers*.

## 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> of February in the Archbishops Palace. Please, buy the tickets with Michael Rainey

## Living Together and Marriage

### **St. Augustine**

This problem often arises: If a man and a woman live together without being legitimately joined, not to have children but because they could not observe continence; and if they have agreed between themselves to have relations with no one else, can this be called a marriage?

Perhaps, but only if they have resolved to maintain until death the good faith that they had promised to themselves, even though this union did not rest on a desire to have children.

## **Saint Augustine's School**

**A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom**

Hornokrčská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč  
[www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz](http://www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz)

The Augustinian Order of priests and brothers was founded in 1256 to serve the needs of God's people in growing urban areas. From the first, the Augustinians have been involved in education. Some of the first universities in the world were staffed by members of the Order. The Augustinians have continued the tradition of education by founding schools in all of their mission territories. The first schools in the United States were the efforts of the Irish missionaries who arrived in the United States shortly after the American Revolution. The Augustinian educational hallmarks are Truth, Unity and Love. In all that we do, one will find these principles at work.

## **February 6**

### **St. Dorothea, patron of our Chapel.**

According to her apochryphal tradition, she was a resident of Caesarea, Cappadocia, who when she refused to sacrifice to the gods during Emperor Diocletian's persecution of the Christians, was tortured by the governor and ordered executed. On the way to the place of execution, she met a young lawyer, Theophilus, who mockingly asked her to send him fruits from "the garden" she had joyously announced she would soon be in. When she knelt for her execution, she prayed, and an angel with a basket of three roses and three apples, which she sent to Theophilus, telling him she would meet him in the garden. Theophilus was converted to Christianity and later was martyred. Her feast day is February 6th.

