



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

Today's Prayer

Two are the commands given us for this life of ours; to abstain and to sustain. To abstain from those things that are considered good by the world, and to sustain the many things that are bad in the world.

This requires continence and endurance. Continence means not to rely on worldly happiness. Endurance signifies not to give way to worldly unhappiness.

March 12th and 13th 2011

The First Sunday of Lent –
Year A

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St. Thomas Church

THE FIRST LENTEN SUNDAY-A

The season of Lent is upon us. As of Ash Wednesday we have begun our sober 40 day journey that will culminate on the evening of Holy Thursday just three days before the glorious Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. Our word *lent* from the Anglo-Saxon expression “lengthening of days” alludes to the gradual approach of spring and the solemnity of Easter which, by coincidence, is another Anglo-Saxon word (*eastre*) meaning “spring.” Today’s readings, laced with chronicled temptation and sin, remind us, no matter how grandly or despairingly we judge ourselves, that we all too often have failed. To paraphrase Paul: ‘Sin can be understood in the sense of *missing the mark* (Romans 5:12); each sin is an act wherein the goal for which we were made (union with God) is denied.’ Today’s gospel reading from Matthew underscores this personal struggle. Jesus in that lonely desert haunt, beset by temptations, has served as an exemplary model over the centuries for all persecuted or harassed Christians that *qualis rex, talis grex* (“as with the leader so with the follower”). As is his wont, Matthew, by heavily relying on Old Testament background and inspiration for his teaching, compares Jesus to Israel in its own desert experience. But, the comparison soon shades into contrast *via* the important difference that Jesus resisted the tripartite temptations. Given *manna* (Exodus 16) the Israelites complained about its taste whereas Jesus rejected such “bread at any price.” In the second temptation, Jesus rejected pointless “power demonstrations” whereas Israel provoked God to work such wonders on its behalf (Numbers 20). Finally, as Israel went off after its own invented deities (such as the *Golden Calf*, Exodus 32 and *Baal of Peor*, Numbers 25), Jesus resolutely repulsed all idolatry in any form. As we commence Lent let us accept ourselves with the possibility of improvement; after all, with God all things are possible. Here are some Lenten suggestions. The Church proposes that we *fast*. Do we really need to consume the amount and types of food we find so congenial? Another form of Lenten observance is *almsgiving*. Can we be more generous to those in want? Do we know any families or lonely persons who could use our help. If you are looking Fr. Juan would certainly help. Finally let us intersperse our Lenten observance with *prayer*. Do we really desire to converse with God? If in prayer we speak with God and in Scripture God speaks with us, would it not be worth the effort to set aside some five minutes each day in preparation for Easter?

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

CLEARING MY SURROUNDINGS OF CLUTTER

Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-15; Lk 4:1-13 I do not live “by bread alone.” If the only meaning of life was food, clothes or work, how meaningless it would be. Lent is a wonderful time to remind myself that God’s presence is what gives life meaning. I begin Lent by starting a “give away” box and praying about what I have that could be used by someone in need.

MONDAY: BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46 Does clutter and disorganization interfere with my growth in holiness? Today is a good day to begin paring down. I look through my kitchen for five or more items to give away.

TUESDAY: EXPECTING THE KINGDOM?

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15 Does my home look as though I am expecting and praying for God’s Kingdom? Why or why not? I let go of more clutter by going through bookshelves for five or more books I could donate.

WEDNESDAY: A SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32 I can be a sign of God’s love to the world by living more simply and passing on my excess to those in need. Today, I gather five or more blankets, sheets or towels to give away.

THURSDAY: THE FATHER KNOWS MY NEEDS

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12 Am I in the habit of asking God to provide for my needs? Today, I look through drawers, on closet shelves and in storage areas for five or more items to donate.

FRIDAY: IF I REPENT, I WILL BE SAVED

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26 Like many in this culture, I need to repent of my excess. Today, I search through my clothes for five or more items to give away.

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/18:30 in the Tagaste room. 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.

Painting course, every Friday at 6:00 pm in the summer refectory of the monastery.

Is anyone interesting in a **fish dinner** during lent? A fish meal for people to come and share together. The money we raise from donations will go to charity. Please see Jim Willetts

Marriage Preparation: The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 26th March from 9:15am - 3pm for those who wish to participate.

Fridays: **Stations of the Cross** at 06:00 pm. Confession will be heard immediately afterwards.

MARCH FOR LIFE. March 26, 2011
Since the last March for Life 25,000 more children were legally killed before birth. And this is because of indifference and much silence from us who have escaped such fate. The law hence forth makes it possible for more and more women to kill their children and unfortunately experience deep wounds.

Mass 26.3. 13:00 - 14:00 St. Giles Cathedral, Husova 8, Praha 1

March for Life 26.3. 14:00 - 16:00 from Husova to Wenceslas Square

For more information: Movement for Life Czech Republic, Hlubočepská 85/64, 152 00 Praha 5, e-mail: info@prolife.cz

Entrance hymn "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint or fall!

So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side;
that we you we may appear
at th'eternal Eastertide.

**4 leaders needed for an English summer camp
inline. More information www.sadba.org**

Saint Augustine's School

"A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom"

Hornokrčská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč

www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz

Registrations open!

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.

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