



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH  
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE  
GOSPEL.**

*With Hope and Joy!*

March 24<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>  
2012

The Fifth Sunday of Lent-  
B

# St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556,

602 643 365

## The Reflection of the Gospel

We have been on the Lenten journey now for five weeks, and the strains of the trip are showing. The resolutions for a “well-spent” Lent, so generously made on Ash Wednesday, are frequently forgotten as we are now near the end of a long journey. For the Jewish people ideally there were annual three pilgrimages mandated. These aliyah or “ascents” were marked by outbursts of rejoicing as the pilgrims neared their goal, the great Temple in Jerusalem. In fact, certain psalms (120 through 127), recited as “gradual songs” (or “walking psalms”), are replete with themes of looking to the mountains of God for help, and rejoicing when approaching the Temple at the end of an arduous journey. “I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘We are going up to God’s house!’”

In today’s gospel, there is this mixed joyful and foreboding anticipation as Jesus approaches His final “hour”. His deepest feelings on His coming destiny are set within a request by some pagan Greeks desiring “to see” Him. And, as so often in John’s gospel, a seemingly chance phrase now conveys the profound connotation of both “believing in and accepting.” Belief in the work of God accomplished through Jesus will shortly be tested for acceptance or rejection through the scandal of trial and temptation. Perhaps, one of the great trials for Jesus’ own disciples will be a “dying to” certain expectations of God. Why did God allow this? What happened to the glad “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday shouted by the adulatory crowds? The response is hardly satisfying if not at once unnerving: “unless the grain of wheat falls...and dies” there can be no life. But we are not to fear this painful process because “where I am there will be my servant.” Jesus promises to identify Himself with those who follow him through the days of his passion. Easy? Certainly not. Publicly the Lord speaks about His personal anguish as “troubling” and fearful. We, His disciples, are not exempt from this same anguish and dread but the power of the Lord’s constancy and unswerving purposeful obedience was rewarded with resurrection. And it is through His glorious resurrection we have been freed. Qualis rex, talis grex or “the destiny of the leader is the destiny of the follower.”

[www.augustiniani.cz](http://www.augustiniani.cz)

## Study of the First Reading

As a prophet, Jeremiah was a peaceful man from a priestly family. He grew up under the religious reforms of King Josiah, but saw the corruption and downfall of the nation. At first, Jeremiah preached for the religious reforms of king Josiah. When succeeding kings turned away from the reforms, however, Jeremiah railed against the royal and religious abuses. With the coming Babylonian exile, Jeremiah preached the destruction of the nation. But, Jeremiah offered a ray of hope with a new covenant that God would offer to a chastened people. [31-32] With the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of people to Babylon, the institutions of the old covenants were gone. The ark of the covenant in the Temple (which represented God's covenant at Sinai) was gone. The Temple that represented worship to God was gone. The institution of the king (which represented God's covenant to David) was gone. Their absence led the way for a new covenant. [33] The new covenant God offered was an intimate one. The people would no longer rely on institutions or culture for a relationship with God. God Himself would reach out to His people. The new covenant would be with people's hearts. People would intuitively know ethical conduct and true worship based upon the love God has for them and the love they returned. [34] How would people know God's love? People would know God through His forgiveness. Forgiveness is a way to "re-create" people anew. When God stated He would no longer remember the people's sin, He meant that the memory and the consequences of immoral acts would be erased from the natural order. It would be as if God had created the universe so that the immorality never existed! The people would return to God with grateful hearts.

[osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

### **Parish project for Lent**

Dear Parishioners in St. Thomas in Praha, here is the overview for a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa of the Congo who lives and works in Nairobi in Kenya:

Course fees: 3896 \$

The student is Fr. Lucien Gumesa who actually is the master of Professed in Nairobi and the Bursar. The studies are to be taken in Nairobi in Kenya. Fr. Lucien will be during the studies still the Bursar of the International House in Nairobi.

Thank you very much already now if you could realize a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Franz Klein OSA, Assistant General in charge of Africa

### **AND WE ARE PART OF HISTORY!**

The Augustinians we have been in what is now the Czech Republic for over 750 years. So many friars and sisters, so many projects, so much work had been undertaken over these centuries. And, now, it is up to us - not only the Augustinians but the whole extended "Augustinian family" including our families, friends, benefactors, parishioners; in other words, all who are close to us. During this coming year beginning in March and ending in December we wish to remind you of various events important to us as Augustinians laboring now for the glory of God and the spread of the gospel in the Czech Republic. Our Anniversary jubilee will be commemorated in the various monasteries throughout the country.

At **Svata Dobrotiva** we will open our jubilee year on March 24 marking the traditional date of Our Lady's appearance to Lord Ulrich of Valdek who invited the Augustinians to the Czech lands in 1262. At Svata Dobrotiva the 15th Annual Marian Pilgrimage on May 19th will take place followed on June 30th with the visit of Cardinal Duka, OP, who will confer the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass.

On April 23rd through the 26th the XV Annual Augustinian Week will be held here at **Saint Thomas, Prague**.

On August 15th in **Dolní Ročov** the titular Patroness of the Church, Our Lady of the Assumption, will be solemnly celebrated.

On September 28th in **Běla pod Beždezem**, the Solemnity of Saint Wenclaus coincides with the 300th Anniversary of the consecration of the Monastery Church.

Special tours of our former monasteries and churches in Domazlice (founded 1287), Mělník (1268) and Česká Lipa (1623) will be organized.

On November 13th in **Saint Thomas Church, Prague**, we will commemorate both the birthdate of Saint Augustine (AD 354) and the last consecration date of our Church (2004).

For further information concerning our jubilee events please refer to [www.augustiniani.cz](http://www.augustiniani.cz) Thank you for your participation

### **Ongoing Activities**

❖ If you would like to receive a **copy of the bulletin by email**, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

❖ Please note that in two weeks, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be celebrating **Palm Sunday** with the Czech and the Spanish community. The traditional blessing of palms will be held in The Infant Jesus of Prague Church from which the procession will begin and continue with Mass for the three communities in St. Thomas Church, at 11:00 am. Our English speaking Catholic community will sing the processional hymn *All Glory Praise and Honor to You Redeemer King*.

#### **\*\*\*Lenten Services\*\*\***

-**Wednesdays**. Bible studies from 06:30 7:30 pm. An opportunity to explore the Word of God.

-**Thursdays**. Mass will be offer at 06:15 pm in St Barbara's Chapel. Confession will be heard before and after Mass.

- **Fridays**. Stations of the Cross at 06:00 pm. Follow by devotions to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine. Confession will be heard immediately afterwards.

- **Saturdays**. Mass at 06:00pm follow by Confessions.

\* *Please note*: Confessions will also be heard upon request at anytime

#### **Praying Lent 2012:**

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

<http://www.villanova.edu/mission/officeofthevicepresident/publications/seasonalreflections/lent/>

### **HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH**

**April 2012**

#### **1. PALM or PASSION SUNDAY: THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM**

06:00 pm, Saturday, the Blessing of Branches and Mass in St. Barbara's Chapel.

09:30 am, Sunday, we will congregate at The Infant Jesus of Prague Church, for the blessing of branches and then process to St. Thomas Church during which the English Choir will sing ALL GLORY PRAISE AND HONOR. Mass will be sung in both languages.

#### **4. WEDNESDAY in HOLY WEEK: Judas betrays the Lord**

06:00 Confessions will be heard followed by Mass in St. Barbara's Chapel.

#### **5. HOLY THURSDAY or THE LAST SUPPER OF THE LORD**

09:00 am The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated with our Cardinal in the Cathedral. All are welcome.

06:30 pm The Mass of the Last Supper with the washing of feet and procession in St. Thomas Church.

#### **6. GOOD FRIDAY or THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH**

06:00 pm The Liturgy of the Passion, Death and Burial of the Lord

07:30 pm The Stations of the Cross (*Via Crucis*)

#### **7. HOLY SATURDAY or THE VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

10:00 - 12:00 pm Confessions will be heard in Church (Czech, English, Spanish, Portugese, Polish); Easter food will be blessed upon request.

08:00 pm The *EASTER VIGIL* begins in the courtyard of St. Thomas for *all* our parishioners and guests

Following the *VIGIL* there will be the traditional "Opening of the Tomb and the Resurrection Procession." Please join us for refreshments in the summer refectory of the monastery.

#### **8. THE SOLEMNITY OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

11:00 am Mass will be followed by the traditional Procession and the "Encounter"

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE PRINCIPLE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH. ALL ARE WELCOME HERE AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH.