



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



YEAR OF FAITH: oct. 11, 2012-NOV. 24, 2013

"The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church."---Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* for the Indiction of the Year of Faith.

June 01st and 02nd 2013

Corpus Christi Sunday - C

St. Thomas Church

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GOSPEL STUDY

In contrast to Mark, Matthew and Luke, John does not assume that the "Last Supper" or Jesus' final farewell meal is a *Passover celebration*. Whereas the first three evangelists in so emphasizing the Passover atmosphere of this meal appear to link Jesus' own mission of salvation to that singular *Exodus* event in Israel's history. For contemporary Jews the Passover meal was something more than a meticulously regulated culinary experience. It had to be prepared by a male of the household (*Exodus 12:3*) and served by a widow first to all the males of the household then to the women and children. Mark even footnotes that the place for the repast would be readily identified by a *man carrying a pitcher of water* (*Mark 14:13*)- a task assumed only by women. There were other aspects to a formal meal in ancient Judaism. Mutual *table fellowship* confirmed one's status in the community. *To break bread together and to drink of one cup* denoted shared recognized values and common beliefs. It was during such a meal that Judas Iscariot definitively *had* to break ranks with Jesus (*Mark 14:17*). Ordinarily, great attention was paid to such circumstances as one's dining companions, ritual ablutions, priority in seating arrangements, the type and manner of food being served, the utensils, the order of servings- not to mention the carefully chosen topics for discussion. For such cultural infractions Jesus was more than once vehemently attacked and stigmatized as "*a sinner*." Thus, for Jesus this Passover-farewell dinner already steeped in symbolism became itself a means of cementing his loving relationship with his disciples. In the face of impending evil *Do this*- that is, break bread and drink of this cup *in memory of me*. This Eucharist or *Thanksgiving* is not only to be remembered but is to be eaten, drunk and rightly adored by us who believe, hope, love and follow him whatever the cost discipleship may exact.

The feast of Corpus Christi or the Most Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord is that feast wherein we as a Christian community are given the opportunity to manifest our worship of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. This honor is shown in many ways. The solemn procession or "walk" with Jesus Christ present in the Host is a sign of willing discipleship (*Luke 19:36*); incense is used in recognition of the kingship of the Lord and a sign "of the prayers of God's holy people" (*Revelation 5:8*). The four altars (in St. Joseph's, in St. Thomas, in St. Barbara's chapel and at the Main Altar in the Church) represent the Four Corners of the earth. Before each altar the following rite is observed:

1. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar and incensed during which the hymn *Down in Adoration Falling* is sung;
2. The Gospel is read followed by a moment of reflection;
3. Prayers of the Faithful;
4. The Priest recites a short prayer and then blesses the congregation with the Monstrance.
5. The Procession then continues on to the next station or altar.

"Adoration means entering the depths of our hearts in communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with his risen Body."

„The Holy Eucharist is the "source and summit" [*fons et culmen*] of the life and mission of the Church. This section of the Adoremus web site provides resources for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, prayers and music centered on the Holy Eucharist, as well as recommended resources for study“

Pope Benedict XVI
Address to Roman Clergy - March 2, 2006

Mission 2013

I would like to read from Mathew 19:

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" 4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

I had the privilege of knowing my grandparents on my Mother's side very well. I spent several weeks at their house in the summer's we lived in the same state and we went by for Sunday dinner after church, pardon the phrase religiously.

My grandparents were an exceptional couple from the hills of West Virginia and they were married for 60 years and had nine children. Both of these milestones are rare in today's world.

I took long walks with my grandfather through the mountains and we did such things as: hunt copperhead snakes and dig up ginseng; all the while exploring the mountains around their small valley; or as they called it a holler.

On one of these long walks, once I was older and my attention had turned to girls I asked my Grandfather: "If a relationship is a 50 / 50 thing; then how does one know when he is giving his 50%.

My Grandfather thought about this one and began to laugh in what was one of the most unique and recognizable laughs, a laugh that he was famous for.

He asked me, "Do you know what it is like to give 110% to something?" Being athletic and sports natured, I answered yes.

He then added "When you feel like you are giving 110% an then you reach down and give a little more; Your probably pretty close to that 50/50."

I have never forgotten that and as we walked he went on to explain to me that we never know just how much the other person is doing for us, we can never know all the frustration and the support that they give or even the things that they resist saying.

The same is most likely true of our relationship with God. We do not see or recognize all the things that he does for us every day, and then we find it hard to remain committed to him ...or we don't have the energy to observe our prayers or to come to Mass.

So here is to giving 110%, may we realize the joy in our relationships, as we get closer to 50%.

Ongoing Activities

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

* We thanks to everybody that helped yesterday in the **Parish Festival** in Kampa park. Was a rainy day but was a nice celebration of the Parish community!

*Today we finish the **Parish mission** . We thanks all the missionaries, specially Bear and Mary Beth for their work during this year helping like missionaries in our community. Do not forget: "Give God a chance in your life!"

Fr. William's 50th Priest anniversary

The 50th anniversary of Fr. William's Priest ordination will be on Sunday, 9th of June at 11:00am Mass. For more information, ideas or how to collaborate, please see Monika Shaheen, Michael Rainey or Fr. Juan

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The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is "the source and summit of the Christian life".¹ "For the most holy Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself, our passover and living bread. Through his own flesh, now made living and life-giving by the Holy Spirit, he offers life to men".² Consequently the gaze of the Church is constantly turned to her Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Altar, in which she discovers the full manifestation of his boundless love.