



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

# St. Thomas Church

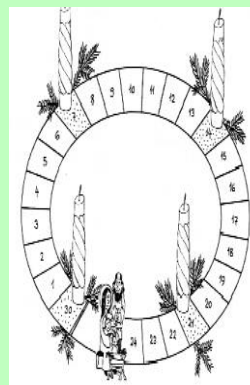
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## Today's Prayer

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.



December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

The Fourth Sunday of  
Advent - Year A

## THE FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY-A

A fundamental conviction is expressed in Christian piety by the role given to Mary the Mother of Jesus. From earliest times Mary has typified the perfected Church of the end-time. When Christians have asked themselves whether it is really possible that the redemption should be completed in the world by people themselves so unredeemed as yet, the veneration of the Immaculate Conception or total sinlessness of Mary, attributed to the foreseen merits of her Son, was a symbolic answer to that question. This doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was a way of saying that through Jesus Christ God has brought about a new and untainted creation, his bride Mary or his bride the Church, uncontaminated by the leaven of past evil, a special and merciful divine intervention.

Similarly, when Christians asked themselves whether the heavenly goal was really attainable, the answer was expressed in the veneration of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, "body and soul," to be reunited to Christ her Son, a symbol of hope and reassurance to the whole struggling Church which she represents. This had already been foreshadowed in the Book of Revelation (11:19; 12:1ff.) in the vision of "the portent in heaven, the woman clothed with the sun, crowned with twelve stars and having the moon under her feet." Probably written originally about the people Israel as the mother of the Messiah, this passage was soon applied both to Mary and the Church, because these both bring forth the Messiah into a world struggling with the forces of evil. Mary as the true model of faith is held up as a symbol of hope for each of us as we travel on to our own destiny.

*The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not fear, Mary, you shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High..." Lk. 1 Fourth Sunday of Advent*

O Jesus, I believe you were born of Mary and are God's Son.

Your mysterious coming is beyond understanding. Yet like your holy mother, Mary, I wish that you come to me, for you promised you will. Let me serve you in any way I can and know that you are with me day by day as my life goes by.

Like Mary, your mother, though I know you only by faith, may my whole being proclaim your greatness and my spirit rejoice in your favor to me.

O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, holding all things in your strong yet tender hands,  
come and show us the way to salvation.

## A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD/from the Byzantine Liturgy/

In giving birth to Christ, O Mother of God, you remained ever a Virgin and in your Assumption you did not forsake this world. You, the Mother of Life, passed into life and by your prayers our souls are redeemed.

## Entrance hymn

### **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free!  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king:

Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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## A TENTH CENTURY CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

In the 5,199<sup>th</sup> year of the Creation of the world, from the time when Almighty God in the beginning created the world; in the 2,957<sup>th</sup> year after the Flood; in the 2,015<sup>th</sup> year from the birth of Abraham; in the 1,510<sup>th</sup> year from Moses and the Exodus of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt; in the 1,032<sup>nd</sup> year from the anointing of David as King; in the 65<sup>th</sup> Week according to the prophecy of Daniel; the 194<sup>th</sup> Olympiad; in the 752<sup>nd</sup> year from the foundation of the City of Rome; in the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of emperor Gaius Caesar Octavian August, all the world being at peace

## JESUS CHRIST

The Eternal God and Son of the Eternal Father, desirous to sanctify the world by his merciful coming among us, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, nine months after his conception, was born in Bethlehem in Judah during the last years of the reign of King Herod and was made man of the VIRGIN MARY. Thus, was the Nativity of OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST according to the flesh, to Him be glory forever and ever with the FATHER in the unity of the HOLY SPIRIT.

AMEN

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## 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: new of Fr. William's email: [wsfaix@augustiniani.cz](mailto:wsfaix@augustiniani.cz)
- We are looking for an **English teacher** to teach in our school (kindergarten). Please contact Fr. Juan ([juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz) or 602684538) for details.
- **Coffee, Cookies & Conversation** follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

## Our CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES:

**December 24:** Christmas Eve,  
18:00/06:00 – Mass for Families and Children

11:30pm/23:30- Christmas carols sung in Czech and English followed by the traditional Midnight Liturgy.

**December 25** CHRISTMAS DAY, THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
11:00 – Mass.

**December 28,**  
18:00/06:00 – Mass

**December 29,** the feast of Holy Family

09:30 Deacon ordination of Fr. Jozef Ržonca, OSA  
11:00 – Mass.

**December 31,**  
18:00/06:00 – Mass to thanks for the year 2010

**January 1,**  
Mass at 11:00 am

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**The President of the Parish Council and all the committees of parochial ministry with Fr. William, the pastor, the Augustinians with the Czech and Spanish communities of Saint Thomas Parish, sincerely wish you, your family, guests and our visitors, the blessings of God's loving peace, health, joy and success now and during the coming year of grace 2014**

We thanks to all the parishioners that have helped with the presents for the giving Tree this year. We have given presents to 68 children. God bless you for your generosity!