



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

St. Thomas Church

Today's Prayer

Christians must always live in this way, without any wish to come down from their cross--otherwise they will sink beneath the world's mire. But if we have to do so all our lives, we must make an even greater effort during the days of Lent. It is not a simple matter of living through forty days. Lent is the epitome of our whole life.

March 15th and 16th 2014

The Second Sunday of
Lent – Year A

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THE SECOND LENTEN SUNDAY-A

The story of Abraham, “the father of our faith” in the first reading and the “transfiguration” of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew are profound narratives worthy of reflection. The life of Abraham as related in Genesis 12-25 tells the unadorned story of an all too human nomad who, when mysteriously called by God, responds in total submission and leaves not only his native land but even the worship of his tribal gods. The reward of this simple man’s faith, in turn, became the corner stone of all Judeo-Christian and Islamic belief with over two billion adherents regarding him simply as “our father” or “first believer.” The so-named *transfiguration* of Jesus represents another aspect of our faith. But, there is much discussion as to what this mysterious event was and meant. Peter, James and John, those three disciples closest to Jesus, undoubtedly had some visionary experience of which with the exception of a letter dubiously attributed to the Apostle Peter (2 Peter 2: 17-18)- they never wrote. The three *synoptic gospels* Mark, Matthew and Luke do mention this *transfiguration* which some early writers date as a post-Resurrection apparition. The majority of scriptural scholars, however, would assign it squarely within the latter period of Jesus’ ministry. Notice the events. First, Jesus takes his disciples aside and “goes up the mountain” where enveloped in a cloud he is acclaimed in the company of Moses and Elijah: “My beloved Son... Listen to him.” (Matthew 17:1-8). Matthew uses the imagery of the Old or First Testament to describe the event. Moses, the lawgiver of his people spoke with God on Sinai which was enveloped in the *shekinah* or “cloud of divine presence” while the people looked on in reverence and fear. Both readings dealing with Abraham’s faith and God’s affirmation of Jesus ministry give us pause to think. As we journey on to Easter do we go with faith, that is, with total confidence in God’s plan for us? Do we take the work and words of Jesus so seriously that we can live in confidence of divine mercy and the hope of the resurrection?

LENTEN SERVICES IN ENGLISH St. THOMAS AUGUSTINIAN CHURCH

Saturday evenings

06:00pm Mass

Sacrament of Confession, Reconciliation.

Sunday mornings

09:45am Religious Education

-Adult Discussion Group in the Summer Refectory.

11:00am Mass

-Children's Gospel instruction in St. Dorothy's chapel.

-Refreshments in the Summer Refectory after Mass

Monday evenings

06:30pm Adult Religious Education

-Discussion, Sacramental preparation, Christian living

Tuesday evenings

06:30pm Bible Study and Discussion

-St. Matthew's account of the Passion, Death, Resurrection.

Thursday evenings

06:00pm Mass in St Barbara's Chapel followed by the Sacrament of Confession, Reconciliation.

Friday evenings

06:00pm Stations of the Cross followed by the Sacrament of Confession. Reconciliation



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CLEARING THE CLUTTER OUT OF MY WORK LIFE
Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:2-10; Lk 9:28-36 Peter's reaction to seeing Jesus transfigured was to do something, build something. But God tells him and us, "This is my son. Listen to him." In a

culture where what we do is valued above who we are, listening to God is sadly neglected. This week, I will pray about the "clutter" of excess doing; about busy-ness, stress, and workaholism. Do I trust God with my work? Do I see myself as loved and valuable for who I am, not what I do?

MONDAY: BLESSINGS—OVERFLOWING, POURED INTO MY LAP

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38 Jesus promises blessings beyond belief when I give. To whom do I give my time and energy? Is it to career, work and chores? Is there anything left for God or people? Should I reorder my priorities?

TUESDAY: HEAVY BURDENS, HARD TO BEAR

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12 Is there anyone in my life who has laid a heavy burden on my shoulders? Jesus promised that his yoke is easy and his burden light (Matthew 11:30). Are my burdens God's will or the result of human selfishness?

WEDNESDAY: WANTING THE PLACE OF HONOR

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28 Jesus told James and John that the greatest in the Kingdom is the humble servant. How much of my busy-ness is designed to gain a "place of honor"? Do I need to revise my thinking in this area?

THURSDAY: LIKE TREES PLANTED BY WATER

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31 What a wonderful image—a tree planted by a running stream, always nourished, never in fear of drought. It is possible to live such a life by reading God's word and praying often throughout the day. I, too, can be refreshed and fearless, no matter what happens.

FRIDAY: PRODUCING THE FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 The Kingdom will be given to those who produce the "fruits of the Kingdom." What kind of "fruit" is my life producing? The lasting fruit of the Kingdom, or things that will not last beyond earthly life?

SATURDAY: GOD'S ARMS ARE OPEN WIDE

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 This parable could be called the parable of the faithful father. If I have realized this week that work and busy-ness are replacing my relationship with God, it's time to come home to my Father.

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

***MARCH FOR LIFE.** March 29, 2014 Since the last March for Life 30,000 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. 12:30 St. Giles Cathedral, Husova 8, Praha 1

March for Life 26.3. 14:15 - 16:00 from Mariánské náměstí

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

*ZŠ nám. Curieových, a Czech elementary school in Prague 1, is organizing a book drive for their English Library. The library serves an ever-growing population of bilingual children, as well as the rest of the student population, who begin English instruction from Grade 1. Please help build their collection by donating books your children have outgrown, especially books suitable for beginning readers to early teens. A collection box for the books will be placed beside the English community bulletin board in the St Thomas courtyard on March 16 and 23. For more info, contact Aurelia Kálovcová, TEL: 724 182 470, email: backatya@gmail.com.

*Do you want to improve your communication skills? Prepare and lead PR of your company and/or project? Or consult your social media activities. Do not hesitate to call parishioner Jan W. Dvořák, phone: 739 682 837, mail: janwdvorak@gmail.com. He will put your communications into better shape.

* Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "wfaix@yahoo.com" or contact Fr. Juan at "juan@augustiniani.cz" Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin.

*St. Patrick's Day Mass will be celebrated this Sunday, March 16th, at 12:30 pm in St. Thomas Church. Immediately after the services there will be the traditional laying of flowers at the "Irish Altar." All are invited.