



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



September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

23.ordinary Sunday –  
Year C

# St. Thomas Church

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The context of a meal is the proscenium for one of Jesus' more explicit teachings on the requirements of discipleship. Far from a perfunctory necessity a meal had in first century Judaism, an important defining social function. Table fellowship bordering on ritual was demanding: who issued the invitation for when and where, with whom one ate, what one ate and where one sat were paramount considerations. Nor was it without a cost since an invitation carried the personal obligation of reciprocating in kind. Contemporary etiquette rigidly guarded such accepted class delineation and religious observance. It was in such an atmosphere as arriving guests jostled one another for preferential seating at the host's right that Jesus suddenly intervened with one of his more trenchant teachings. One can only imagine how the festive atmosphere of the dining hall changed with Jesus' definitive but peremptory pronouncements! Since most invitations were issued on the basis of proper orthodox belief or blood and kinship, how could one possibly invite the poor and the marginalized without incurring ritual uncleanness? More was to come once he delivered his startling blueprint for Christian discipleship.

The first requirement of the would-be disciple is to prefer the kingdom of God to all other obligations including the all-important family and kinship. Without compromise or halfway measure this outrageously delivered teaching relegated such status-identifying relations to the margins of unimportance. The second requirement is to carry one's cross which in this case would mean to bear up under the burden and stigma of such radical detachment. Aside from the risks involved, being a "class-less" or economically dependent member of a "new family gathered for the kingdom of God" is hardly an enticement for most. The third and final requirement of discipleship is to give up all in preference for this kingdom of God. At once surprised, shocked and piqued, these dinner guests once comfortably settled for a Sabbath afternoon dinner, were now being challenged at the heart of their religious beliefs and cultural values.

## Our Mother of Consolation

### September 4

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near the Cross, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." --John 19: 26-27*

With these words Jesus was asking his Church, represented by the disciple, to console and care for his mother. At the same time he was asking his mother to console and care for the Church. From this arose the tradition that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a source of consolation for the whole Church.

Monica, the mother of Augustine, suffered much from her wayward son's early life of sin. According to an ancient story, she confided her distress to Mary, who appeared to Monica wearing a leather cincture (a type of belt). As a pledge of her support, Mary removed the cincture and gave it to Monica to wear. Monica gave it to her son, who, after his conversion to Christ, gave it to the members of his monastic community.

The traditional depiction of Our Mother of Consolation shows Mary holding the child Jesus on her lap. Jesus and Mary both hold the Augustinian cincture in their hands.

Devotion to the mother of Jesus under the title Mother of Consolation has been an Augustinian tradition for centuries, since the cincture that is part of the Augustinian habit reminds them of the compassionate consolation she offers to the Church.

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Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com). Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

## FEASTS and ANNIVERSARIES: September

08 **THE NATIVITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS**, has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. It is on this day that seed for next year's sowing is blessed and according to folk tradition whatever the weather today will be the same for the next four days.

09 **Peter Claver** (+1654) was an indefatigable Jesuit missionary among the black slaves imported to the Americas, who worked to alleviate their condition. Calling himself "the Slave of the Slaves," he is said to have baptised over 40,000 such unfortunates in the port of Cartagena, Columbia

10 **NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE** (+1305), an Augustinian friar, preacher and healer, was for his miracles called "the Wonderworker." On this day there is the tradition of blessing bread in honor of St. Nicholas which is then given to the sick. He is also venerated as the Patron of Church unity since the Council of Florence (1439) which was held about the time of his canonization, temporarily at least, witnessed the reunion of the Latin and Greek Churches.

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### **How to help?**

Back to School Supply Drive starting in September! We're collecting new school supplies such as notebooks, pens & pencils, crayons, etc. as well as gently used backpacks, kids' clothing and shoes for kids in need in and around Prague. Thank you for your generosity! For help contact Mary Beth [redirector@augustiniani.cz](mailto:redirector@augustiniani.cz) or Fr. Juan [juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)

### **We need for a family with 4 children:**

2 pcs of school bags for boys (fifth graders)  
1 pc of school bag for a girl  
3 pcs of cases for art supplies for boys  
1 pc of case for art supplies for girls  
3 pcs of pencil cases for boys  
3 pcs of erasable pens  
4 pcs of **covers for** for large exercise books  
4 pcs of **covers for** for small exercise books  
4 packets of temperas  
4 packets of watercolours  
3 packets of coloured pencils  
4 pcs of washable plastic sheets for art lessons  
1 pc of slippers for boys (size 32)

## Ongoing Activities

❖ We **welcome** all our new parishioners to St. Thomas Church. Please introduce yourselves, if you wish, at refreshments after the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays or just call us or visit at your convenience.

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

❖ **Lectors and Eucharistic ministers:** If you would like to be a **lector** or Eucharistic minister at mass on Sundays please contact Ann at [dalyaann@hotmail.com](mailto:dalyaann@hotmail.com)  
A new schedule will be prepared soon.

❖ It's time to register your kids (4years and up) for Religious Education classes! Please see Mary Beth after Mass or contact her at [redirector@augustiniani.cz](mailto:redirector@augustiniani.cz) for details! Classes start Sept 11th at 9:45.

❖ **WONDERING HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?** St. Thomas provides free English classes as part of their community outreach activities. Classes will be beginning 19 of September. And we are in need of native English speakers who can give of their time to teach classes. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Fr. Juan at [juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)

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### Year of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"

#### **Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:**

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

#### **And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:**

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill
7. pray for the living and the dead."