



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

St. Thomas Church

Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

"Be still and know that I am
God."

Lord, Your words lead us to
the
calmness and greatness of
your presence.

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May 27th and 28th 2017

Seventh Easter Sunday
Or
Ascension of the Lord

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The Reflection of the Gospel

Once the horror of their Master's death had faded in resurrection light, the once despondent disciples regather in the peaceful assurances of their Lord. His final instructions are given and *he ascends and sits at the right hand of Almighty God*. Far from being a finale, Jesus' short earthly ministry *continues* through and within the ministry of his faithful now gathered as a Church. This inaugural moment yet awaits completion with the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclet ("Intercessor") *who will recall to mind all that I have taught you*. As with such events Mark leaves much to the imagination. Leaning heavily on Old (First) Testament language he emphasizes that *the saving hand of God had worked these (recounted) deeds alone*. Little did this motley group of bewildered disciples realize what lay ahead! The world they knew was certainly not waiting for their message. Their faith - soon to be tested by those evils characterized as the devil, deadly serpents and poisonous potions - would prevail through the assurances of such signs as speaking in tongues, healings and exorcisms. Yet, powers such as these have been conferred on us in Baptism uneasy as that might seem to many Christians! Let me paraphrase a startling passage in *Mark* that warrants close reflection: *The Lord who continues to work through us is the One who confirms this message with signs that accompany us* (Mark 16:20). In brief, we, who have been baptized and thus armed with Christ's power, are called *into the world* to proclaim *his word* with confidence. The mystery is that for a variety of reasons we do not claim this authority. Awed by the authority "of the ordained" or constrained by either indifference or lack of conviction we fall into compromise. Let the priests "do that"; how about lay ministers and "all those 'church' people who revel in such activities? With the drop in vocations, lay ministry maybe closer than we think. Let this feast of the Ascension be a reaffirmation and recommitment to the handing on of the "good news"; let us hand it on with the assurance of God's promise: *I am with you always*.

Study of the First Reading

Anticipation is a national disease. We Americans hate to wait; we want everything now! Yet, we spend more time and energy preparing to celebrate a major event than actually enjoying the event itself. The Christmas season clearly shows off our obsession with anticipation.

The first reading has an atmosphere of anticipation. The author of Luke's gospel and Acts (who we will refer by his traditional named "Luke") begins the history of the early Church with a note to Theophilus [1]. The first book, the gospel of Luke, put a light on Jesus and his mission. Now, the Church becomes the focus. Like a good writer, Luke drops hints to answer his friend's question: "What will happen next?"

Who is this "Theophilus?" We do not know who he was, or if this person even existed. The word Theophilus means "friend of God." It is a proper name; it can be a nick name or title. Because it could mean different things in different contexts, Luke could have been writing to a person or a group of people. Luke could have even been addressing the reader. You or I could be the "friend of God" to whom Luke writes.

To build up the anticipation, Luke summarizes the life of Jesus [3] and then adds the promise of the Spirit [4-5]. The disciples, however, are not satisfied with this answer. They still want to know when Jesus will return as Messiah [6]. Do they wait for the right event? Luke says, "No." The day and time, even the timing, are reserved for God the Father [7]. "Do not wait for things to be done for you," Luke seems to say. "Wait instead for God's Spirit, so God will give you the power to do it for yourself [8]."

As Jesus speaks, he disappears from view [9]. But, the disciples still don't get it. They stand there and wait for Jesus' return [10]. Yes, he will return, but don't waste your life in passive anticipation. There is work to be done! And God will send his Spirit to work through us, so we can continue the mission Jesus began.

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follows Sunday's Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.** Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "wfaix@yahoo.com". Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

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.

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

Bible Study sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

4 leaders needed for an English summer camp from July 9. - 22. More information see Fr. Juan or ask at juan@augustiniani.cz

St Thomas' English Speaking Community now has a presence on **facebook**. Please 'like' our page and if you want to get more involved with the community, join our group!

Photos of the Marian Pilgrimage to St. Dobrotiva you can see at www.augustiniani.cz/fotogalerie

Please note: on Sunday, June 18th, the Czech, the English, the Spanish speaking communities and other expatriate communities together will celebrate the feast of **Corpus Christi** which honours the Eucharistic presence of Christ. Mass for all our communities will be at 09:30 am. there will be no Mass at 11:00 am. Immediately after Mass the procession with the Blessed Sacrament through Malastrana

The 14th PARISH FESTIVAL. June 3rd 2017.

From 11:00 till 16:00

PARK LADRONKA

(Usedlost Ladronka, Tomanová 1, Prague 6).

Program for children and for adult.

Lunch will be a picnic. Please bring something to share!

Night of the Churches

9 June 2017

Program:

17:50 18:00 Bells

4 bells of the Church of St. Thomas for the health of all the pilgrims of the Night of the Churches

18:00 19:00 Contest for children

Contest for children and their parents / grandparents: "Search for important symbols in church and monastery"

18:00 23:00 Legendary St. Thomas Beer and legend monasteries

In the cloister's cloak you will learn something about the history of the traditional monastery beer of the monastery of St. Tomas. Beer has been brewed since 1352

18:00 23:00 Adult competition

Search for something in the church, be part of history and you can win something!

18:00 24:00 St. Augustine and the Augustinians today!

Who is St. Augustine? Who are the Augustinians? Monastery Ambit

18:30 23:45 Do you want someone to pray with you and pray for you?

An interview with a priest who prays with you and prays for you. Bring your worries, problems, intercessions, and joy ... and stay here in the Church with God! Chapel of St. Dorothy

19:00 19:30 Tour of the Church (In English)

Tour to the Church and Monastery of St. Thomas

19:00 21:00 Library of the Monastery of St. Tomas

The interpretation of the library and its treasures!

19:30 20:00 Church tour (En Espana)

Tour of St. Thomas Monastery (in Spanish)

20:00 21:00 Church Choir. Concert

Classical music concert. The concert program includes a wide-ranging composition from the earliest period (Gregorian Choral), to the compositions of contemporary authors.

20:00 24:00 Candlelight Procession over Charles Bridge.

Join the unbelieving Thomas and Christ the Savior through the candlelight procession from the Church of St. Thomas in Mala Strana, across Charles Bridge and to the Church of Nejsv Salvatora at Křížovníckém nám.

23:30 23:45 Finish and blessing

Termination of the exhibition of the Holy Eucharist with prayers and final blessing