



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

Today's Prayer

Say this prayer today

Dear Jesus, as I call on you today, I realise that I often come asking for favours. Today I'd like just to be in your presence. Let my heart respond to Your Love.



November 4th - 5th 2017

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31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Thomas Church

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Reflection on the Gospel

At the conclusion of the controversial encounters with the chief priests, those “skilled in the Law,” the Sadducees, the Herodians and the Pharisees, Jesus now addresses his disciples and “the crowds” who listen to a further denunciation of pharisaic hypocrisy. That Jesus so engaged (and enraged) the Pharisees is incontrovertible but some question the extent of Matthew’s account. According to some scholars, the whole passage (at root historical) rather reflects the experience of the Christian community in the later part of the first century in the aftermath of the destruction of the temple and city of Jerusalem during the Jewish War (AD 66 – 72). Those surviving pharisaic rabbis with permission of the Roman authorities gathered in the town of Jamnia (AD 90) to assess Judaism’s precarious situation. Formulating a definitive list or canon of biblical books, they posited an effective survival plan in which there was no room for the likes of the Christians, derogatorily termed *minim* or heretics. We are still living with this fateful decision. However, we should not simply dismiss this passage as a Jewish-Christian quarrel. There is yet another point that should not be lost in discussion – the role of Christian leadership. It is possible that positions (“teacher” or “rabbi”) and titles of authority (“father”) in Matthew’s Christian community were being sought for personal gain and self-prestige in pointed contradiction to Jesus’ own teaching. The moral drawn is simple: while questioning the motives of the Pharisees we must *exercise* surveillance over our own community and its leadership. All this is done with that humility that characterized the life and message of our Teacher and Rabbi, Jesus, whom we acknowledge as Messiah.

Study of Today’s Readings

FIRST READING: Daniel was the first book written in an apocalyptic style. Because of the many historical inaccuracies in the book, there has always been a great controversy over the time frame of its composition. Conservatives insist it was penned by a historical person who lived in the Babylonian exile. Others claim it was written much later by an anonymous figure in the second century during the Maccabean revolt against the Syrians. In either case, the book reflected a time of great upheaval. The book painted the changes in human affairs in a way that mirrored the cosmic struggle between God and the dark forces. Chapters 10-12 consist of a set of visions that depict angelic combat against evil. 12:1-4 marks the high point of these visions: the great tribulation [1b], assurance of salvation [1c], and the resurrection of the dead [2]. Notice that the righteous who are risen will shine like their leader, Michael the Archangel. In these times of stress, we should take comfort, not anxiety, from the words of Daniel. The passage promised great protection. Why shouldn’t we take comfort? After all, we have God on our side in this struggle!

SECOND READING: In this section of Romans 8, St. Paul tries to explain the doctrine of justification, the belief that we can do nothing to merit God’s favor; everything, including salvation, is a gift of

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday 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

The New Pipe Organ for Our Church (to be installed already on 26 November!)

In these days the repair of our large pipe organ is culminating. For the first time after more than four-year efforts it is to be heard in shining colours at the end of November. To begin with, I will recall that the instrument was made in 1923 by the Bohumil Pastika's organ company based in Stara Boleslav, that is almost 100 years ago. The three-manual instrument with a total number of 28 ranks was built-in into an old Baroque organ case. After an unfortunate reconstruction in the 1960s, its technical state in the recent years before the repair was deplorable. We have still in living memory when the instrument repeatedly stopped functioning during church services, disturbed the audience by spontaneously sounding tones and required permanent attention and weekly care. The organist always sat behind it with apprehensions whether he/she would finish the church service, wedding or concert without too many interruptions or shame... Thanks to Father Juan's decision the work on restoration and reconstruction of the instrument was commenced and the costly work was successfully completed also with the grant contribution from the Ministry of Culture and the Authorities of the Capital City Prague. A young, but already very experienced organ workshop was selected, named Petr Dlabal and Boris Mettler from Bilsko near Olomouc. These skilful organ builders, who have made several dozen successful repairs, restorations and reconstructions, took up the careful and thorough repair of all parts of the organ together with a team of their employees and co-workers; it was undertaken in the restoration regime because the instrument is protected as a monument and enjoys the favour of control authorities, which is testified by two controls of the Monument Inspectorate of the Ministry of Culture, always unreservedly. And the parts mentioned are not a few in our organ – over 2,100 pipes, around 2,000 lather pallets of various sizes, 1.5 thousand metres of tubes to control pallets under the pipes and hundreds of other wooden parts and segments. Among others, it was necessary to transport a large bellow weighing a few hundred kilograms, a big console and also the whole rear part of the organ case, which had to be supplemented with joinery components and reinforced, to the organ workshops for repair and then to lift them up onto the choir loft. In short, there was a lot of work as on pipe organs. It was just the time consumption of all manual work why the total costs reached 3.8 million Czech crowns exclusive of VAT.

And we do not even yet speak of the extra costs, among others, of the new floor that was replaced for the already worn and well-trodden floor in the front section of the choir loft where the chorus usually stands. I believe that the large investment in the instrument will return not only in its long-lasting reliability, but particularly in its beautiful sound by listening to which we refresh our soul and lift our mind to God with praise and thanks. Our sincere “Thank God” to everyone who in various ways contributed to its repair!

Štěpán S.

On Sunday 26 November at the Feast of Christ the King during the Holy Mass we will thank God the Lord and bless the new reconstructed organ. The joint Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m., followed by a joint lunch and an afternoon cultural and musical programme. **Everybody is invited!**

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

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: If you would like to serve as a lector or Eucharistic minister at the Sunday mass please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com

The choir is looking for new members. If you like to sing, we'd like to have you join us! Please contact Frank Jicha at frankjichal@gmail.com or 602441201 for more information.

Every Saturday at 9:00am **feeding of the homeless**, as social service.

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

Religious education for adults sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:00pm/18:00 in Tagaste room.

Please join us as we **pray the Rosary** the first Saturday of each month! We'll gather at 17:30 in the main church, to pray before English Mass begins at 18:00. Please contact Petra Nykodym at +420 602 223 602 with questions.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday at 19:30 in St. Barbara's Chapel.

During all the Sundays **Masses in November** we are going to pray for our death people. Please write theirs in a list in the entrance of the Church

Remember our Parish Dinner **-Thanksgiving Dinner**, which is scheduled for Saturday November 25th at 19:00/07:00 pm, at Augustine Hotel. Please see Michael Rainey for tickets and details.