



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

St. Thomas Church

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Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

The more we call on the
Lord
the more we can feel His
Presence.
Day by day He draws us
closer
to His loving heart.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST'S BAPTISM

January 15th and 16th 2011

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST'S BAPTISM-A

Today's feast should be a meditation not only on Jesus' but also on our own baptism. Most of us were baptized as infants and cannot be expected to have any remembrances of that momentous event. Whether we remember or not it was and is truly momentous. As a sacrament- using transient symbolic actions and powerful words- it incorporates us into the one body of Christ which we profess to find in the Catholic Christian community. This sacrament as with all sacraments should never be taken lightly or conferred without inquiry. To appease a pious parent, spouse or to continue a "family tradition" is not sufficient reason for a baptism. As we shall shortly see we are asked some rather stringent questions regarding our faith or beliefs as they affect our lives and daily habits. Present in this assembly we are given an opportunity once more to profess our baptismal faith and so refocus our life's directions. So challenged, let us ask the Lord for his continuing grace and further strength to follow him whatever the cost.

The baptism of Jesus was a theological problem for the early Christian community. Why should He-who is sinless and "takes away the sin of the world"- submit to this ritual of cleansing (baptizma in Greek means "a washing") at the hands of John the Baptizer? Today's third or gospel reading from Mark does not pass over this pivotal event. In fact, the baptism is used by the evangelist to illustrate that Jesus as *the* designated "*suffering servant*" foretold by Isaiah has now begun his redemptive mission.

Lest there be any doubt in the minds of the listener, there are three witnesses brought forth: "John, the Baptizer" recognizes in Jesus' submission, the one sent by God; the "dove"- here a symbol of Israel- now is given to Jesus as a sign of prophetic fulfillment of all the divine promises to the chosen people. Finally, the "voice" heard by Jesus points him out as the Messiah and suffering servant. Jesus was in the course of his ministry to battle victoriously with evil for the formation of a new community called together in his name. We are members of that community and today's readings tell us our lives over which Christ reigns, have begun. Hear what He has to say!

The Priest then addresses the congregation with these words:

If your faith prompts you to renew your baptismal vows, you will be asked to reject sin or the power of evil and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ which is the faith of the Church or this community with whom you now stand.

Priest: Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children? Response: I do.

Priest: Do you reject the glamor of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin? Response: I do.

Priest: Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and prince of darkness? Response: I do.

The Threefold Profession of Faith

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? Response: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Response: I do

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

Response: I do.

The Assent of Faith

Priest says in the name of the assembly: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it and so renew our baptismal promises in the name of Jesus our Lord. Response: AMEN!

The Blessing with Holy Water then follows.

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 at wfaix@yahoo.com

FEASTS AND ANNIVERSARIES: January

17. **Anthony of Egypt** (+356) "the Father of Christian Monasticism," has been immortalized by Athanasius's famous biography, *The Life of Anthony*. The first of its kind in Christian literature.

18. **Maria Teresa Fasci, OSA** (+1947) Augustinian nun known for her works of charity in post-war Italy.

-Today the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins. Let us pray that all be one in the name of Christ.

-**Margaret of Hungary** (+1270) A Hungarian princess known for piety and charity.

19. **Henry of Finland** (+1160) The Apostle of the Finnish people.

20. **Sebastian** (+288) Milanese soldiers who refused to deny his Christian faith and were martyred.

21. **Agnes of Rome** (+303) Roman teen age girl who would not compromise her faith or her chastity was so brutally abused that she died in prison.

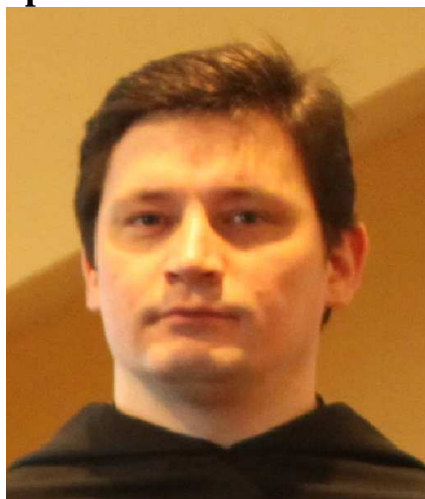
-Vladimir Lenin (+1924) the architect and perpetrator of some of the most heinous actor the Russian revolution.

22. **Vincent of Zaragoza** (+ca.300) Spanish deacon who suffered for his faith under Diocletian.

-**Josefa Maria de Santa Inez, OSA** (+1696) Spanish Augustinian sister beloved for her intercessory prayer and charity.

-Queen Victoria of Great Britain (ruled from 1837 to 1901) Gave her name to her age and its mores.

P. Vít Mariusz Marciniak, OSA **New pastor of St. Thomas Church**



On Sunday January 15th Fr. Vít M. Marciniak, OSA is taking the responsibility of the Parish of St. Thomas Church. We wish him all the graces for his mission like pastor. Please, pray for him!

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

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.

New Times for Confession:

Every Monday from 06:30 pm in St Barbara's Chapel and any time upon request

Prayer & worship

Each Sunday we are beginning with a prayer & worship from 10a.m. till 11a.m. in St. Barbara's Chapel. We will also be seeking people who would be willing to come and play an instrument while we worship and/or pray. We pray that the Lord moves more of our members to take action in prayer and worship, as there is much to pray for.

Saint Augustine's School

A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom

Hornokřeská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč

www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz

Parish assembly

27. 1. 2011***** 07:30 p.m.

Monastery Crypt - Saint Thomas Monastery

An opportunity to meet with all the parishioners of St Thomas and have the opportunity to do an evaluation of our pastoral work. Your voice is important!

Program

1. – Welcome prayer

2. – Liturgy:

*Join masses

*homily

3. – Community

* Collaboration between communities

*Parish retreat

4. – Economy

*Projects: roof of the church- reparation of the church organ- projects in Africa

5. – Information in the parish

*www.augustiniani.cz

*others

6. - Discussion