



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE
GOSPEL.**

With Hope and Joy!

November 10th and 11th 2012

Thirty Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time-Year B

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

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The Reflection of the Gospel

Investments are a staple of our economy. People who have capital and invest it wisely can become among the richest in our society. Firms specialize in advising us with regard to wise investments. The adventurous gamble on long shots and the cautious stay with tried and true stocks.

Two women in today's readings gamble on long shots. The widow of Zarephath has no capital to risk (first reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16). She has only enough to make a last meal for herself and her son, and no promise of any future gain. Common sense would advise her not to try to feed Elijah first on the little she has. But she gambles and wins. She risks generosity to a prophet, and her investment pays off. The jar of flour did not go empty nor the jug of oil run dry until the rain, her hope for steady sustenance, was given again by Yahweh.

The widow whom Jesus observes in the temple also has no capital to risk (gospel: Mark 12:38-44). She does not even have a prophet to reassure her. All she has is the word of God in Scripture and the example of the community. Her trust and her generosity are of greater value than the contributions of the wealthy. We have no doubt that her investment paid off.

The two widows are a hard act to follow. Each gave from her want, all that she had to live on. Jesus himself, for our sake, gave his very life. How, then, can we refuse anyone who asks, anyone who needs? We know who it is in whom we trust. We know that our investment is secure. We know the market will peak beyond our wildest expectations. Invest now! We can't lose!

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Study of the First Reading

The story of Elijah and the widow has a parallel in the life of Elisha, his successor. Both stories have poor widows and their starving families in common. In both cases, the word of God through the prophet sustained the widows through their need.

In this narrative, the widow and her child suffered from the drought that afflicted Israel. The prophet Elijah requested a meal with a promise: God would provide until the drought ended. In faith, the widow prepared Elijah's meal first. And her jars of food remained sufficient until the rains came.

This simple story had a greater purpose. Even in dire need, those who suffer will receive comfort from God. And, when there does not seem to be a means share, God will find a way. In our need, let us remember the lesson of Elijah and the miracle of the jars.

Study of the Second Reading

In these verses, the author of Hebrews focused on the heaven and the end times. The sacrifice of the cross extended itself into heaven where Jesus intercedes for us. Because his priesthood was eternal, he needed to only offer once. It was for all time. So, it did not need to be offered in yearly cycles, like the levitical celebration of Yom Kippur.

In his argument, the author wove the threads of sin and death tightly together. People may try to appease God over and over for their shortcomings, but they die only once. Their death, the author assumed, was the result of sin. In this sense, their appeasement fell short and their judgement after death would be negative. But the death of Christ was the forgiveness of sin. So it had the power to destroy the source of death. In doing so, the end of life became a way to look forward to salvation. Futility was replaced by hope. Death led to life.

These verses challenge us with the question found in the note on 9:27-28. Do we accept what the death of Christ can do for us? This is the pivotal question of life. For it can lead to hope. And life!

Collection Appeal

We would like to inform you that we have budgeted expenses of 9000CZK per week. We request you to continue to contribute generously during the Saturday/Sunday Masses.

Anyone wishing to view the details of expenses should contact Mr. Jose Fernando by email (iose@iaitex.cz) or by phone (602 293 867).

osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Announcements and Ongoing Activities

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

*Please, pray for the **Mission** in our Parish!

*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

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

*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!

***Deceased Family Members and Friends:** There will be a book available in which you may write the names of deceased family members and friends so that prayers may be offered for the repose of their souls during the month of November.

***Parishioner's Prayer Intentions:** The English Community will now post prayer requests on the bulletin board designated for their use in the walkway. Anyone who would like prayers said is invited to post their needs and Father Bill will pray for these intentions throughout the week. You needn't identify yourself; your request is sufficient. For those who've had prayers answered we will also have a praise section.

*Please note that on Saturday November 24th the **6:00pm Mass** will be in the Archbishops Palace in Hradčanské náměstí 15. Prague 1

Feasts

11. *Martin of Tours* (+397) born in Hungary, became a soldier who giving half his cloak to a beggar in Amiens (France) later dreamt that he had clothed Christ. Leaving all, he became a monk and later bishop of Tours. He is the patron of soldiers, riders and wineries. "His cloak (in Latin *capella*), the prize relic of the French kings was kept in a sanctuary or capella from our word 'chapel' is etymologically derived. "On Martin's day, winter is on its way."

12. *Josaphat* (+1623), the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Polotsk, called the *Dushkovat* or "Hunter of souls" was martyred for his devotion to Church union with the See of Rome.

13. **FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FAMILY.** As the title suggests today, the birthday of St. Augustine in 354, are commemorated all the holy men and women who lived under or have been inspired by the Rule of Saint Augustine.

St. Thomas Parish Dinner of Thanks

Where:

Archbishops Palace
Hradcanske namesti 16
Prague 1

When:

Saturday November 24th
Mass at 18:00
Dinner follows at 19:15

Tickets with Michael Rainey or William Revellese

"Hence, you who are fervent in spirit, be enkindled with the fire of love. Let your lives glow with the praises of God and irreproachable morals.

One person is hot, another cold. Let the one who is hot warm the cold."

Saint Augustine, Sermon 234, 3

Prayer: Glory to our Lord and to his mercy and to his truth! Out of his mercy he did not fail to make us blessed, nor did he hide from us his truth. The Truth, clad in flesh, came to us and healed through his flesh the inner eye of our heart, that afterward we might be able to see him face to face.

Sant Augustine, Commentary on Psalm 56, 17

BENEFIT CONCERT

TO RAISE SUPPORT FOR ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFORTS



FEATURING: BRET & EMILY HILLS {US}

19:00, FRIDAY, NOV 16TH

VINOHRADSKÁ 68, PRAGUE 3
TRAM / METRO TO DÍRHO Z PODĚBRAD



GLOBAL HOPE NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Charles Lamento is the Director of Global Hope Network International's Criminal Law Policy and Training Center in Geneva, Switzerland. The center's mission is to reform and reinforce public justice systems by serving the needs of governments, NGOs, civil society and corporate business sector who are committed to the elimination of crimes against humanity. The center will focus on organized crime, human trafficking, and national security issues.