



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



**YEAR OF FAITH: oct. 11, 2012-NOV. 24, 2013**

"The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church."---Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei for the Indiction of the Year of Faith.

April 06<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>st</sup> 2013

The Second Sunday of Easter Year C

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# St. Thomas Church

## **THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY**

*With the promulgation of the papal letter entitled Rich in Mercy (1981) which, in turn, had been spurred by the writings of Sister Faustina Kowalska of the Congregation of Mercy, devotion to the Mercy of God has been rapidly spreading throughout the Catholic world. Among the very strong requests expressed by Our Lord, according to this nun, was that the first Sunday after Easter be observed universally as the **Feast of Divine Mercy**. Citing his words: This feast of Mercy emerged from the very depths of my mercy and it is confirmed in the very depths of my tender mercies... it is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter... I desire that the feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercies are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fountain of my mercy... I want to grant a complete pardon for souls who will go to confession and receive Holy Communion on the feast of my Mercy... Whoever approaches the fountain of life (that is, receives Holy Communion) on this day (today, the Second Sunday of Easter) will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment... On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.*

*Commenting on these profound words, St. Faustina remarks: That the feast of Mercy be a true refuge for all, the very depths of Jesus' generosity are opened **this day** in order to pour out upon souls, without holding back, graces of every type and degree. This generosity is... **the motive** for calling upon Divine Mercy with great and limitless trust, for all the gifts of grace Our Lord wants to squander on this Sunday. *Why delay? Let us confidently approach our merciful Lord with confidence. Remember the A B C of mercy: Ask for mercy; Be merciful and Completely trust in Jesus.**

## **Let us pray**

Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Through your most sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world.

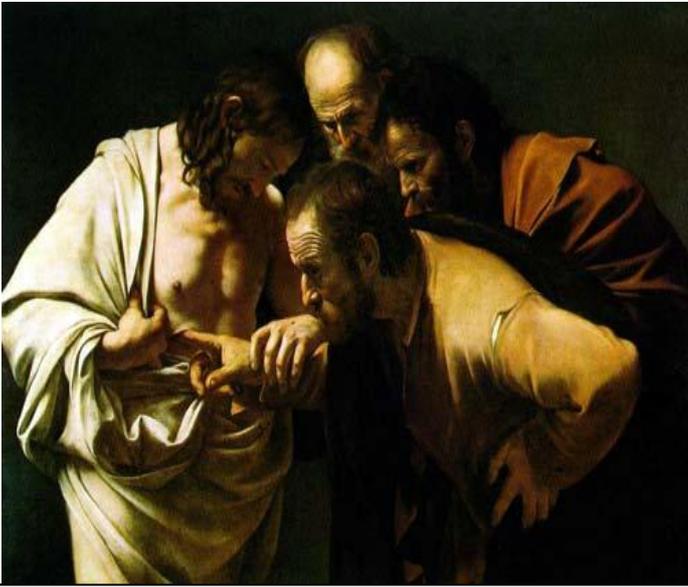
*To fittingly celebrate this feast sincerely repent of all sin, place complete trust in Jesus Christ, go to confession, receive Holy Communion on the feast of Mercy, venerate the image of divine mercy and above all be merciful to others, through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf.*

*Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." John 20:27*

Lord Jesus,  
you showed your apostle Thomas  
the wounds in your hands and side  
and called him to believe in you,  
as Lord and God.

Risen and present everywhere,  
bless those who have not seen  
and renew our world of doubt  
and weakened faith.

Bless us, Lord, with the love  
that flows from your wounds,  
Renew our faith  
and help us to grow  
in believing in you.



\*\*\***The 16th Annual Marian Pilgrimage** to the Shrine of the **Gracious Madonna**, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zajecov, will be held on May 11. We meet in front of St. Joseph's church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, May 19. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism. SIGN UP: In the sacristy of St. Thomas Church

**St. Augustine** called the *eight days of Easter* (which the Church liturgically considers as constituting *a single day - the day of the new creation*) "days of mercy and pardon." He calls the Sunday of this Paschal Octave (which our Lord insisted with St. Faustina is the Feast of Mercy [*Diary, 88*]) "the summary of the days of mercy" (*Sermon 156, Dom. In Albis*). It is no wonder, then, that already during his pilgrimage to Blessed Faustina's tomb on June 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II declared: "I give thanks to Divine Providence that I have been enabled to contribute personally to the fulfillment of Christ's will through the institution of the Feast of Divine Mercy."

## 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)

\***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.

\***Marriage Preparation:** The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 20th April from 9:15am - 3pm at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate.

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

\*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!

\*If you are interested in studying the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies, a course run by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, please see the website <http://brs-ccrs.org.uk> and contact Jim Willetts on [jimwill@email.cz](mailto:jimwill@email.cz)

\***DIVE CLUB "BARRACUDA"** Dive club "barracuda", associated to the parish, offers dive courses (system CMAS) and the possibility to dive. If you are interested, please contact Ramón 774 717 049 o Antonio 608 22 76 86

\***Parish dance** will be on Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Archbishop Palace from 07:pm. Ticket you can buy with Michael Rainey. Please come with us to celebrate!

\* **Augustinian week** from 22<sup>nd</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Conferences, exhibition and so on. Program in our web [www.augustiniani.cz](http://www.augustiniani.cz)

***CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN.***