



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

Today's Prayer

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.

April 26th and 27th 2014

The Second Sunday of
Easter – Year A

St. Thomas Church

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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.*

Study of the First Reading

In the early chapters of Acts, Luke painted an ideal portray of the Church in Jerusalem. Early Christians created this "ideal" more out of need than out of some sense of utopia. After all, many of believers left their extended families to become Christians. They banded together and shared their possessions/incomes. This was not a commune, as many liberal scholars would like to think, but more like a fraternal organization, with friend helping friend. [32] The Apostles were spiritual and organization leaders of this group. They were the ones who distributed goods to the poor in the community, so everyone could live. Eventually, the Apostles ordained deacons to care for the poor (i.e., the widows and the orphans who were homeless), again out of necessity. [33, 35] The spirit of unity was expressed in financial outreach. The "haves" shared with the "have-nots." Notice that those with property were not forced to sell their possessions for the Church; the offerings were made freely. This point would be made later in Acts 5:1-10. [34] Like the early Christian community, our parishes or assemblies are quilt works with different people from different backgrounds earning different salaries having different needs. This diversity creates a tension that can tear the community apart. Or it can spark a growing together. The resources for growth are usually present. Openness is needed to make that growth happen. Openness to others. Openness to the Spirit.

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.

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Canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII.

It is with great joy that this April 27th, Divine Mercy Sunday, we will witness the supreme honor of canonization of not one but two popes, Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II. They will be canonized as saints in a historic solemn liturgical rite officiated by Pope Francis.

It is through this Rite of Canonization that the Supreme Pontiff, in an act which is protected from error by the Holy Spirit, elevates a person to the universal veneration of the Church. A Mass, Divine Office and other acts of veneration can now be offered throughout the universal Church.

The testimonies of their lives, "completely dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel, shine in the church and reverberate in the history of the world as examples of hope and light,"

Blessed John Paul, known as a globetrotter who made 104 trips outside Italy, served as pope from 1978 to 2005 and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011. Blessed John XXIII, known particularly for convoking the Second Vatican Council, was pope from 1958 to 1963; Blessed John Paul beatified him in 2000.

The choice of April 27, which will be Divine Mercy Sunday in 2014, was not a complete surprise.

Pope Francis said Blessed John was "a bit of the 'country priest,' a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio."

He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage, Pope Francis said. "He was a man who let himself be guided by the Lord."

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis told the reporters on the plane, "I think of him as 'the great missionary of the church,' because he was "a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere."

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/18:30 in the Tagaste room. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

Lectors and Eucharistic ministers : If you would like to support the community as a lector or Eucharistic minister at mass on Sunday's please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com

I would also like to hear from those who took part in the training session for Eucharistic ministry last February.

The 17th Annual Marian Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the **Gracious Madonna**, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zajecov, will be held on May 31st . We meet in front of St. Joseph's church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, June 4th . 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.

Coming soon:

18.5.2014. First Communion Sunday

25.5.2014 Confirmation Sunday

**23.5.2014 The Night of the Churches from
18:p00 till 00:00**

**The 11th PARISH FESTIVAL
7. June 2014. Monastery of St. Thomas**