



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

Today's Prayer

Say this prayer today:

Lord, help me to be fully
alive to your holy
presence.
Enfold me in your love.
Let my heart become one
with yours.

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November 15th and 16th, 2015

33^h Sunday of Ordinary Time- A

St. Thomas Church

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The Reflection on the Gospel

Like the two preceding parables or short, spiritual allegorical stories, Jesus teaches the necessity of preparation for the coming judgment. But, how do we understand the underlying meaning of this brief narrative? First, we must not take every word of this "parable of the talents" literally since the evangelist Matthew himself does not do so as evidenced in his interpretative finale. Second, the word talent in the present context refers not to "natural abilities" or "skills" but to a monetary measure of about 42.5 kgs or roughly 19.3 lbs of precious metal (silver or gold). One scripture scholar reported that a talent (originally tallied as that weight which an adult could carry) was a working person's salary for 15 years! The long absent master of the house, upon his return, summoned his three servants or property managers to settle accounts with them. As in the preceding parables the stock figure of a long absent but demanding master is crucial to the story. Two elements are involved in the assessment of these three stewards: the first, and most salient, they were able to reliably discharge such responsibilities during their master's long absence; the second, and most surprising, they are to be graciously invited, if found reliable, to enter into the joy of the master. Since the reward entailed is not something that a contemporary Palestinian landlord would do, it is obvious that Jesus gives the incident an end-time significance. Gracious as it is, the invitation comes at a cost. The first two stewards are rewarded generously for industry while the third, being afraid, hid the single talent entrusted to him, and was severely rebuked for wickedness and laziness and then unceremoniously thrown into outer darkness. The moral of the story? As Jesus taught we, like the three stewards or managers, are charged with two precious commodities or talents: the gift of faith which we are never, because of fear, laziness or even our own sinfulness, to conceal or take for granted - like the third who hid the entrusted talent in the ground. The other is the inestimable gift of time which we are never to squander. I believe it was St. Ignatius Loyola (+1556) who, amidst the mite-like details of daily administration constantly reminded himself: "Quid est hoc ad aeternitatem?" or to freely paraphrase "What does this have to do with eternity?" A sobering alternative, indeed, when tempted with "burn out."

Study of Today's Readings

FIRST READING: The Book of Proverbs is a collection of sayings and wisdom poems that found its present form after the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, many verses surely came from the period of the monarchy in Judea before its fall. The poem of an ideal wife (31:10-31) comprised the last major section of Proverbs. The poem described the perfect wife as prudent, industrious, and wise. Such a woman would make a prosperous business person by today's standards. But, unlike today, the ideal wife in Proverbs did all this in the shadow of her husband. According to the custom and culture, the wife was part of the husband's family, so her loyalty belonged to her spouse. Even in acts of charity [31:20] she was to advance his reputation [31:23]. Above all, two qualities stand out, stability [31:25] and fidelity to the God of Israel [31:30 b]. Notice that the qualities of sensuality and femininity were absent [31:30a]. If we strip away the notion of the wife, the remaining qualities would describe a faithful believer. Prudent and wise. Generous and industrious. Stable and faithful. We should strive for these qualities in our lives.

SECOND READING: After Paul reassured the Thessalonians about the fate of those who died before the return of Jesus, he turned his attention to the

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

Activities

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

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

Training will be provided for those who have not previously served in these ministries.

* **Bible Study** takes place every Tuesday from 18:30-19:30 in Tagaste room.

*Every Saturday Morning from 0900 to 1000, St. Thomas Church in Malastrana is collecting clothes for the **homeless** in Prague. Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Also, at this time, soup and bread is provided to the homeless before they go to receive clothing items that are presorted and distributed by volunteers. Besides clothes, the homeless may also benefit from Winter shoes, blankets, sleeping bags and general camping gear. Anyone wishing to know more can contact Father Juan

*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!

* Sunday after Mass **meeting of the Parish council** in Kasiciako room.

***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 William 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.

* **Marriage preparation** course will take place Saturday January 17th, beginning at 09:15 am with lunch break and will conclude at 03:00pm.

* Next Sunday November 23rd at 03:00pm in St. Barbara's **concert** in honor to Saint Cecilia, patron of music.

St. Thomas Parish Dinner of Thanks

Where:

Archbishops Palace
Hradcanske namesti 16
Prague 1

When:

Friday November 28th
Dinner follows at 18:30

Tickets (only 120 tickets available. Please purchased upon request. Not reservation taken).

More information with Michael Rainey.

5th IWAP Christmas Market

The International Women's Association of Prague will hold its Christmas Market from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, 6th December 2014 at the InterContinental Hotel, Prague

This is IWAP's main charity fundraising event, which this year supports two local charities, Kolpingův dům and Projekt Šance o.s

We are looking forward to over 40 vendors with unique Christmas gifts, delicious baked goods, live music and amazing raffle prizes.

Admission is 20 Kč on the door; there is no charge for children and we have a Kid's Corner with an all day program of children's activities.

European Taizé Meeting in Prague

The next European Meeting will be held in the city and region of Prague, from 29 December 2014 to 2 January 2015. The Taizé Community is preparing the meeting at the invitation of the Czech Bishops' Conference and the Council of Czech Churches. It will bring together several tens of thousands of young adults for the next step of the "pilgrimage of trust on earth" initiated by Brother Roger at the end of the 1970s.

Young people from all over Europe and beyond will be hosted by the people and local church communities of the region.

At the heart of Europe, the city of a thousand towers and a thousand steeples still brings together peoples and persons from different horizons, offering warm hospitality through its cultural treasures and its spiritual heritage.

We need some families to host young people. If you want to help, please contact Fr. Antonio. antoniorivas@augustiniani.cz

