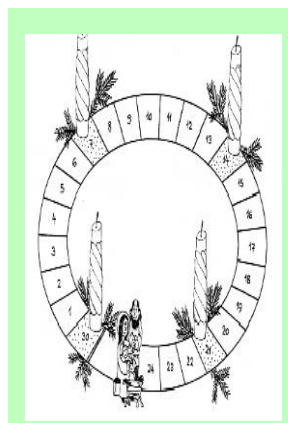




St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II

Today's Prayer

The more we call on
God
the more we can feel
God's presence.
Day by day we are
drawn closer
to the loving heart of
God.



December 17th and 18th
2016

The Fourth Sunday of
Advent-Year A

St. Thomas Church

Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 532 675, 602 643 365

THE FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY-A

A fundamental conviction is expressed in Christian piety by the role given to Mary the Mother of Jesus. From earliest times Mary has typified the perfected Church of the end-time. When Christians have asked themselves whether it is really possible that the redemption should be completed in the world by people themselves so unredeemed as yet, the veneration of the Immaculate Conception or total sinlessness of Mary, attributed to the foreseen merits of her Son, was a symbolic answer to that question. This doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was a way of saying that through Jesus Christ God has brought about a new and untainted creation, his bride Mary or his bride the Church, uncontaminated by the leaven of past evil, a special and merciful divine intervention.

Similarly, when Christians asked themselves whether the heavenly goal was really attainable, the answer was expressed in the veneration of the

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not fear, Mary, you shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High..." Lk. 1 Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Jesus, I believe you were born of Mary and are God's Son.

Your mysterious coming is beyond understanding. Yet like your holy mother, Mary, I wish that you come to me, for you promised you will. Let me serve you in any way I can and know that you are with me day by day as my life goes by.

Like Mary, your mother, though I know you only by faith, may my whole being proclaim your greatness and my spirit rejoice in your favor to me.

O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, holding all things in your strong yet tender hands, come and show us the way to salvation.

A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD/from the Byzantine Liturgy/

In giving birth to Christ, O Mother of God, you remained ever a Virgin and in your Assumption you did not forsake this world. You, the Mother of Life, passed into life and by your prayers our souls are redeemed.

The President of the Parish Council and all the committees of parochial ministry with Fr. William, the pastor, the Augustinians with the Czech and Spanish communities of Saint Thomas Parish, sincerely wish you, your family, guests and our visitors, the blessings of God's loving peace, health, joy and success now and during the coming year of grace 2017

Advent and Christmas 2016

Project : Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance to Children of Poor Families in the Parish of Saint-Augustine of Poko.

The following project plans to help children 18 years and younger who belong to poor families within our own parish. The project hopes to ensure that these children have access to a basic education program.

This project is part of an effort to mobilize resources towards the creation of a youth ministry program. The program would encourage parents to create a Christian environment within their families and help establish a Christian leadership group with a social development focus.

Overall yearly cost: 2000 EUROS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

General Objective

Ensure the yearly education of 10 school-aged children that belong to impoverished Christian families from Saint-Augustine Parish in Poko.

Specific Objectives

SO 1. To ensure the costs of educating 10 children in the area schools – 5 girls and 5 boys under 18 years of age.

SO 2. To ensure the travel of one child to Kinshasa so that he/she can attend a school in the Capital.

PLANS

1. To conduct a fundraiser campaign towards the education of children belonging to impoverished Christian families.

2. To pay the education expenses for the 10 children identified by the Parish of Saint-Augustin.

3. To ensure follow-up of the beneficiaries of this education program with their respective schools.

LENGTH OF THE PROJECT

The project covers a period of six years (starting in 2017) This period encompasses one complete cycle of primary and secondary education in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

MAINTENANCE OF THE PROJECT

1. The parents of the children benefitting from the program are organized under a small parish association that deals with the educational matters of parish youth.

2. Parents will contribute two pigs so that they can build communal pigsty

3. The funds generated by this pigsty will contribute to the local initiatives run by the priest and help all men and women of good will.

More information: www.augustiniani.cz/en or Fr. Juan at juan@augustiniani.cz

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.

Lectors and Eucharistic ministers: If you would like to be a **lector** or Eucharistic minister at mass on Sundays please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com.

A new schedule will be prepared soon.

Song books/Missals. On several Sunday's we have been short of song books for the congregation. A recent inventory showed that many books were unaccounted for. If you have one of the song books at home could you please bring it in when you are next at St. Tomas.

Song books/Missals- Please return the songbook to the back of the church at the end of mass. Thank you.

Our CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES 2016:

December 24: Christmas Eve,

18:00/06:00 – Mass for Families and Children.

11:30pm/23:30- Christmas carols sung in Czech and English followed by the traditional Midnight Mass.

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY, THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,

11:00 – Mass.

December 31,

18:00/06:00 – Mass to thanks for the year 2010

January 1,

Mass at 11:00 am

THE BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS DISTRIBUTE THE "LIGHT OF PEACE FROM BETHLEHEM"

Following a tradition which began in Austria in 1986, the scouts bring the light of Bethlehem from the church of the nativity of the Lord and distribute it throughout the world.

The scouts of the group "Augustin" distribute the light of Bethlehem during the Sunday mass in Saint Thomas Church.

We suggest that you prepare a place at home to maintain the light alive (may be with an oil candle).

May this symbol be a sign of peace and reconciliation, a good wish that we can bring to others.