



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

Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

The more we call on the
Lord
the more we can feel His
Presence.
Day by day He draws us
closer
to His loving heart.



January 21st and 22nd 2017

3rd Sunday in
Ordinary time A

Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

St. Thomas Church

"The Kingdom is at hand" (CCC 541-542)

When Jesus began his ministry, the Kingdom was truly at hand, for he embodied God's reign. By preaching the Good News and healing those in need, Jesus revealed God in the midst of his people. By gathering followers, Jesus called together God's people, his Church, so people could be close to the Father.

Who has led you closer to Christ? How has that person been a light in your life?

In Jesus' time, people sought wisdom, a light to guide their lives. They were so eager for wisdom, any new idea that came with traders from the East or South was easily accepted. We, too, live in a world eager for wisdom with many different mediums to inform us. We all look for "lights" to our way.

Jesus was a light in his message, his ministry, and his call. He revealed God to others. As his followers, we are to carry that message, ministry, and call forward.

How have you used wisdom to help you to live a Christian life? To help others live Christian lives?

The traditional date for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Paul Wattson to cover the days between the feast of St Peter and the feast of St Paul, and therefore have a symbolic meaning. In the southern hemisphere where January is a vacation time churches often find other days to celebrate the week of prayer, for example around Pentecost (which was suggested by the Faith and Order movement in 1926), which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the Church.

We belong to Christ. We are his and no other's. This fact is the foundation for our unity: In baptism, Christ has claimed us for his own, and made us all one in him. The unity we share in Christ is greater than all the differences, past and present, which divide the churches today.

Because we belong to Christ, we belong to one another and are accountable to one another. That is why Christ calls us to build up his body, the church, together as co-workers and fellow-servants. That is why Christians and churches are called to live and work together, as fellow-servants in witnessing to their faith and in serving those in need. And that is why divisions, dissension, quarrelling, factions based on personalities (even if they are Paul or Apollos or Cephas) – all these are denials not only of our brothers and sisters in Christ, but of Christ himself.

As God's temple, the church is a place of worship, and common worship is the most powerful expression of our common belonging to Christ. Every act of common worship is a victory over our division and a celebration of the unity which we do have in Christ. We are united with all those, in all places and times, who have belonged to Christ and who in the Spirit have worshipped God. We do not always act, of course, in accordance with the unity given us in Christ. When we cannot worship together, especially at the Lord's table, our disunity is plain for all to see. Here there is more "building" to be done – and that by all churches!

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 at wfaix@yahoo.com

Announcements and 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.
- **Bible Study** takes place every Tuesday from 18:30-19:30 in Tagaste room. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about our sacred scriptures.
- Wednesday at 18:30. Tagaste room takes place **Adult Religious education**.
- **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.
- **Fr. William** will be away on Order affairs beginning 23th January to the end of February.

Upcoming Events

23. **Feast of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph.** Traditional date ascribed for the wedding of Mary and Joseph. We pray for all our married couples and those preparing for matrimony.
24. **Francis de Sales** (+1622) Bishop of Geneva, indefatigable preacher and patron of Catholic journalists.
25. **Conversion of St. Paul** (ca. A.D. 33) One of the most important events in the history of the Church, see *Acts of the Apostles*, 9. Today we conclude the Unity Octave devotions.
26. **Timothy and Titus** (+ ca. A.D.) Early disciples of Paul and fellow missionaries.
-Australia Day (1788)
27. **Angela Merici** (+1540) Pioneer in the education of women and foundress of the Ursuline Order.
-**George Matulaitis** (+1927) a Lithuanian bishop and refounder of the Marianist missionaries.
28. **Thomas Aquinas OP** (+1274) is, after St. Augustine, one of the most prominent thinkers in Catholic theology.

Bl. Josephine Mary of Beniganim January 23

Josephine Mary of Beniganim (1625-1692) was an Augustinian Sister noted for her deep spirit of prayer and for her service to her community.

She was born January 9, 1625 in Beniganim, Valencia, Spain. She was baptized Josephine Teresa. Her family was poor, and became poorer when her father died while she was still a child.

Josephine entered the local Augustinian convent, where she took the religious name *Sister Josephine Mary of Saint Agnes*. The other sisters usually called her *Mother Agnes*.

Because she had little formal education, Josephine's ministry was initially limited to providing domestic service for her community. She developed a deep life of contemplative prayer, where she was gifted with theological understanding and the ability to counsel others. This allowed her to expand the scope of her ministry.

She died January 21, 1692. Her remains are preserved at the Augustinian convent in Beniganim. Pope Leo XIII declared her *Blessed* in 1888.