



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

Today's Prayer

How great a good was
conferred on humankind by
the handing over of Christ!
God had in his thoughts our
salvation by which we are
redeemed; Judas had in his
thoughts the price for which he
sold the Lord.

April 1st and 2nd 2017

The Fifth Sunday of Lent –
Year A

St. Thomas Church

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Lazarus of Bethany, also known as **Saint Lazarus** or **Lazarus of the Four Days**, is the subject of a prominent **miracle** attributed to **Jesus** in the **Gospel of John**, in which Jesus **restores him to life** four days after his death. The **Eastern Orthodox** and **Roman Catholic** traditions offer varying accounts of the later events of his life.

In the context of the Gospel of John, the narrative of the Raising of Lazarus forms "the climactic sign... Each of Jesus' seven signs illustrates some particular aspect of his divine authority, but this one exemplifies his power over the last and most irresistible enemy of humanity—**death**. For this reason it is given a prominent place in the gospel."

The name Lazarus (Latinised from the **Hebrew**: אלעזר, Elāzār, **Eleazar**—"God is my help"^[7]) is also given to a second figure in the Bible: in the narrative of **Lazarus and Dives**, attributed to Jesus in the **Gospel of Luke**.^[8] Also called Dives and Lazarus, or The Rich Man and the Beggar Lazarus, the narrative tells of the relationship (in life and in death) between an unnamed rich man and a poor beggar named Lazarus. While the two characters named Lazarus have sometimes been conflated historically, they are generally understood to be two separate characters. Allusions to Lazarus as a poor beggar taken to the "**Bosom of Abraham**" should be understood as referring to the Lazarus mentioned in Luke, rather than the Lazarus who rose from the dead in John.

First Reading:

Tradition is important. It proclaims our past and defines our roots. But tradition for tradition's sake is as problematic as change for change's sake. Faith demands that we cling to the wisdom of tradition, while being open to possibilities change brings.

To a people that defined itself by the events of the Exodus [16-17], God called Israel to a new openness. "Forget the past," God chided the people. "Look what I am about to do."

Why did the savior of the Exodus tell the people to forget about the past and look to the future? Through the prophecy of Second Isaiah, God spoke to the exiles in Babylon, the descendants of those who were taken before the destruction of Jerusalem. The exiles clung to the stories of God's power in order to maintain their faith and their national identity. But, without a capitol or a nation or a temple for their God, the Jews in exile were without hope. Only tradition gave them a sense of who they were.

But God reminded his faithful that tradition alone does not make faith come alive. Faith means trust in God. God would create a way home through the desert with all necessary provisions (i.e., water from a river); the return home would be peaceful (i.e., wild animals honor the Lord) [19-21]. Just as God acted in the Exodus, he would act in the exiles' lives. What seemed impossible would come about; the exiles would return home.

Faith without hope clings to a religion stuck in the past. Faith that tries to be "relevant" to the present by rejecting the past drifts away without roots. Both need focus upon God, his will, and his power. Trust in God brings the past alive, gives the present meaning, and the future hope.

Holy Week Schedule 2017

April 9th ,PASSION (or PALM) SUNDAY, there will be a joint service with the Czech and Spanish communities beginning at Infant Jesus of Prague Church- Karmelitska street- at 11:00 am.

April 12th Spy Wednesday, in Holy Week, Confessions and Mass at 18:00/06:00 pm in Saint Barbara's Chapel.

April 13th , HOLY THURSDAY. At 9:00am Mass with the Cardinal in the Cathedral of St. Vitus. At 06:30/18:30 Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of Feet, the Transfer of the Sacrament. At 09:00/21:00 Adoration.

April 14th ,, GOOD FRIDAY. At 06:00/18:00pm the Stations of the Cross. At 06:30/18:30 the Liturgy of the Death and Burial of the Lord.

April 15th ,, HOLY SATURDAY. From 10:00 – 12:00 Confessions will be heard and Easter food will be blessed. 08:00/20:00 the VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, MASS followed by the OPENING OF THE TOMB, THEOPHORIC PROCESSION.

April 16th ,, EASTER SUNDAY. Mass at 11:00am followed by the THEOPHORIC PROCESSION and the ENCUESTRO.

Lenten Services

-**Wednesdays**. Bible studies from 06:30 7:30 pm. An opportunity to explore the Word of God.

-**Thursdays**. Mass will be offer at 06:005 pm in St Barbara's Chapel. Confession will be heard before and after Mass.

- **Fridays**. Stations of the Cross at 06:00 pm. Follow by devotions to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine. Confession will be heard immediately afterwards.

- **Saturdays**. Mass at 06:00pm follow by Confessions.

* *Please note:* Confessions will also be heard upon request at anytime

Communion Class Bake Sale will take place on April 2nd – please bring your appetite to the Refectory after Mass! Proceeds benefit kids in need. If you'd like to donate items to sell, please contact class teacher JoAnn Manzano in advance: joann.manzano@yahoo.com

Lent 2017

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. See more at www.augustiniani.cz/en

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

4 leaders needed for an English summer camp from July 9. - 22. More information see Fr. Juan or ask at juan@augustiniani.cz

Marriage Preparation: The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 8th April from 9:15am - 3pm for those who wish to participate.

Parish dance on April 22nd from 08:00pm in Prague 4. Ticket with Michael Rainey

Augustinian week from April 24th till April 28th. A opportunity to know more about Saint Augustine and his teachings

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