



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

### Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

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.

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June 18<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

Holy Trinity

# St. Thomas Church

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## TRINITY SUNDAY-A

In Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost we celebrated *events* in the life of Our Lord but today, the feast of the Trinity and the next two Sundays of Corpus Christi and Sacred Heart we commemorate *mysteries*. We should, however, reflect on what we are celebrating since faith seeks (and needs) understanding. This “way of faith” can be aided through the study of *theology* dealing with the inner life and nature of God and through reflection on the *economy of salvation* wherein God reveals and communicates Himself and his plans to us. Of course, there really can be no separation between these two “disciplines” since all revelation has been given to us for a purpose: to lead us back to God. We speak of “mystery” (from the Greek *mytein* “to close one’s eyes”) in terms not confined to theology alone. Consider the cosmos, its origins, destiny; the elusiveness of a common cold or some reported medical discoveries or even the unraveling of the genetic code and the word ‘mystery’ reigns. If we have such problems with the observable how much more are we reduced to silence before the infinite God particularly in His Trinitarian life? When confronted by the Jehovah’s Witnesses some are surprised to learn that while the concept is the word *Trinity* is *not* in Scripture (incidentally neither is the phrase *Jehovah’s Witness*!) The word “Trinity” was coined around the year AD 117 to answer some challenges questioning Jesus’ relationship with God. Nestorius (+440), still later, flippantly dismissed the image of a “diapered divinity” lying in a manger. Though we will never “prove” the Trinity, profound as it is, we must employ understandable language at the service of faith. The following three words (insufficient as they are) may help. *Substance* (a synonym for *essence* or *nature*) indicates that God, the self-subsisting, possesses *one divine nature* that in turn has *three distinct but equal Persons: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit*. Their “oneness” is in their relationship with each other. The Trinity is One as each Person is *divine*, really *distinct* but *related* to the others in point of generation or procession. Thus the Father generates, the Son is begotten and the Holy Spirit proceeds. The divine persons are *related* one to another yet distinct in this relationship but one in nature. Today’s gospel tells us that the *Father* sent the *Son* not to condemn but to rescue and to save those who believed. One of the most pointed questions Jesus ever asked is: *Do you believe?*



The Trinity, three persons in one God, was revealed to those who placed their faith in Jesus. As disciples, our faith leads us to accept the doctrine of the Trinity; our trust in the Lord leads us to live in the presence of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Coffee, Cookies & Conversation** follows Sunday’s 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](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)” or contact Dias Fernando at [Dias.Fernando@pbschool.cz](mailto:Dias.Fernando@pbschool.cz) Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin.

## FEASTS and OTHER ANNIVERSARIES: June

21. Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ (+1591) young Jesuit scholastic died nursing plague victims.

22. John Fisher and Thomas More (+1535), John, bishop of Rochester, and Thomas, a married layman and father ("the man for all seasons"), executed for denying Henry VIII's acts of supremacy.

24. **SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**, the Precursor of the Lord, Patron of Puerto Rico, Quebec, Malta, Florence and the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It is also Fr. Juan's Name Day/svatek, onomastico/.

-Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes of Malta Day. Approved in 1113, the Order of Malta has moved successively from Palestine, to Rhodes (1308) to Malta(1530) and finally to Rome in 1834. Its charitable projects have aided countless poor and victims of natural disasters all over the world. For further information contact: Fra Thomas Hruby, Reg. Pres., or Fra Michael Rainey, Disaster Relief Director, both of our parish.

## Corpus Christi Sunday

On Sunday, June 26, the Czech, the English and the Spanish speaking communities will celebrate in common the feast of **Corpus Christi** honoring the Eucharistic presence of Christ. One Mass for all our communities will be celebrated at 09:30 am. Please note: there will be no Mass at 11:00 am. Immediately after Mass the Eucharistic procession will proceed first to the Altar of the Czech Patrons at the rear of our church for Benediction. Then the Procession proceeds to St. Joseph's Church. Following Benediction we will then cross Mostecka Street and turn left to the Church of Saint Mary. The Procession with the final Blessing will be given at the Main Altar in the Church of the Infant Jesus of Prague (Jezulátko). All are invited to join us in public homage to the Lord in the Eucharist.

## Announcements and Ongoing Activities

-Every Saturday at 9:00am feeding of **the homeless**, as a social service

-If you would like to receive a copy of the **bulletin** by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

-To **everyone!** The new rota for refreshments is on the notice board in the refectory. Please sign up for a week - it's easy and a great way to meet other parishioners! Any questions see Jim Willetts

-Once again we bid **farewell** to those of our parishioners who will be leaving us.

-Anyone interested in teaching **Religious Education Classes** next year (starting in September) - please contact Monika Shaheen at [mshaheen@iol.cz](mailto:mshaheen@iol.cz)

-We are looking for an **English teacher** for our school. If you are interesting, please see Fr. Juan

### Saint Augustine's School

*"A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom"*  
Hornokřeská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč  
[www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz](http://www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz)

### Trust Jesus Box

In John's Gospel, Jesus told Nicodemus that he would save the people who trusted him. That was his mission in the world.

Prayer is a way to show trust in Jesus. Using the "prayer box" idea, create a "Trust Jesus" box. Have your family members write down prayer requests on strips of paper and place them in the box. Emphasize trust in the act. Now that Jesus had the requests, place them in his hands. At the end of the week, take the requests out of the box and review the results. You family may find that placing their trust in Jesus was well worth the effort.

### **Three Persons in One God, One God with Three Persons**

As Christians, we believe there is only one God, but there are three persons in God. Each person in the Trinity has all the qualities, abilities, and power we can attribute to God; each one is fully God. We know these three persons by their names and we know how they are related to each other by their names. "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." When we make the Sign of the Cross, we show our faith with the three persons in one God.