



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

Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

"Be still and know that I am
God."
Lord, Your words lead us to
the
calmness and greatness of
your presence.

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July 02nd and July 03rd 2011

St. Thomas
14th Sunday in Ordinary
time A

St. Thomas Church

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**THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT THOMAS, THE
PARISH PATRON,**

The name Thomas comes from the Hebrew word *te'om* meaning "twin" which some older versions of the Bible often coupled with the Greek equivalent *didymos*, a common enough name in New Testament times. Our Thomas appears four times in the gospel of John where his name (and reputation as the "doubter" will forever be linked with his initially hesitant witness to the resurrection of Jesus. On that final journey to raise Lazarus- that dramatic anticipation of Jesus' own passion and resurrection, Thomas urged his fellow disciples to go up "and die with Lord." At the Last Supper, to Thomas's query as to what course of action is to be followed Jesus gave that memorable response: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

For all his enthusiasm, it is Thomas who became the symbol of those disciples who could not accept the resurrection of their Lord. In contrast to his usual bravado and lively inquiry, once absent from the company of his fellow apostles he peevishly responds to reports of Jesus' appearances with resolute incredulity. Yet, in one of the most touching moments of the gospel the risen Lord reveals himself to his doubting apostle. Now he not only recognizes Jesus but utters one of the clearest affirmations of his divinity in the New Testament: "My Lord and my God." In the epilogue of the gospel, Thomas is counted among the close circle of those believers favored by the risen Lord. As to Thomas's ultimate fate we have no hard historical evidence. Traditions dating only from the third and fourth centuries posit the apostle's last years in Osrhoene (in eastern Syria) where he embarked on mission to India. There after many trials in which he was accused of using royal funds to relieve a famine, he was ordered to be speared to death by King Misdaï in Madras-Mylapore around the year A.D. 72. Further legends tell us that Thomas being late for the funeral of the Virgin Mary asked that her tomb be opened so he could see her for the last time. Once opened, the tomb, now, without traces of her body was filled instead with wondrous flowers. The frescoes above the main altar and the sanctuary of our church here in Prague memorialize these beautiful legends and testify to the veneration in which our parish patron was –and still is- held.

Saint Thomas, Apostle -Iconography

In portraits St. Thomas often holds a book as a sign of his apostolate. His primary attribute is most often a carpenter's square or T-square. This refers to the first episode of the [Acts of the Holy Apostle Thomas](#), where the apostles draw lots to see who will bring the gospel to what countries. When St. Thomas draws India, he is reluctant to accept this difficult mission, but Jesus settles the issue by selling him to a royal official just arrived from India looking for a slave skilled in carpentry. In the *Golden Legend*, the official is seeking an architect; in Caxton's translation, a mason.

At times the primary attribute is not a square but a spear, which refers to manner of St. Thomas's death in earlier hagiographies such as the [Consummation of Thomas](#). (In the *Golden Legend*, he is killed with a sword -- a "glaive" in Caxton -- which would be problematic as an attribute because of its association with St. Paul.)

Both the square and the spear seem to have lacked the currency of other apostles' attributes. In an [array of sculptures of the apostles](#) in Parma's Duomo, St. Thomas has to hold up a scroll that says "Thomas," even though Bartholomew standing beside him is given only his customary book and flaying knife.

The most common narrative image of St. Thomas involves his placing his fingers into the wound in Christ's side, as recounted in [John 20:24-29](#). In some instances, Christ's hand guides St. Thomas's into the wound.

In some texts relating to the Assumption of the Virgin, St. Thomas arrives late and either demands proof of the Assumption or attests to it (having seen it from afar) and is asked for proof by the apostles. In either case, the proof is Mary's belt

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" or contact Dias Fernando at Dias.Fernando@pbschool.cz Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

Announcements and Ongoing Activities

-If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact 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

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

-HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED SUMMER. Until we meet again, God bless!

-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"

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FEASTS and ANNIVERSARIES: JULY

03 Thomas, "One of the twelve," the patron of our parish community, is venerated as the Apostle of India. Over the main altar, Peter Paul Rubens's masterpiece, *The Martyrdom of Saint Thomas*, which was taken from our Church and never returned, in sweeping baroque terms depicts the Saint's heroic death.

04 Prokop the Abbot (+1053) was one of the earliest Czech saints and founder of the Sazava monastic community which celebrated the Liturgy in Slavonic.

-Venerable John Baptist Jossa, OSA (+1828), an Augustinian secular, who lost his job because of his profession of faith and spent his later years administering to prisoners in Neapolitan jails.

05 CYRIL and METHODIUS (+869 and +885) were two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, who evangelized the Slavs in what is now the Czech Republic and Slovakia. They created an alphabet (*Cyrillic*) in which the Bible and other literature could be read by their converts and developed Church patterns which heavily influenced nascent Czech culture for centuries. Also on this day in 1985 during the now celebrated *Velehrad Pilgrimage* that the Communist party officials were publicly confronted.

06 This day in Constance in the year 1415 Master Jan Hus, the Rector of Charles University, despite letters of imperial protection, was put on trial and burnt at the stake for heresy. A popular preacher much influenced by the ideas of John Wycliff of England, he became after his death a symbol of violent resistance during the devastating Hussite wars (1420-1437).

Conversion of St. Augustine

Augustine's life as a young man was characterized by loose living and a search for answers to life's basic questions.

He would follow various philosophers, only to become disillusioned with their teachings.

For nine years he was associated with the Manichean sect. But he gradually became aware that Manicheism was unable to provide satisfactory answers to his probing questions.

At this time, Augustine was teaching rhetoric in Milan. He went to hear the preaching of Saint Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan. At first he went only to hear Ambrose's eloquent style of speaking. But the Bishop's preaching led Augustine to a new understanding of the Bible and the Christian Faith.

Some time in the year 386, Augustine and his friend [Alypius](#) were spending time in Milan. While outdoors, Augustine heard the voice of a child singing a song, the words of which were, "Pick it up and read it. Pick it up and read it." He thought at first that the song was related to some kind of children's game, but could not remember ever having heard such a song before.

Then, realizing that this song might be a command from God to open and read the Scriptures, he located a Bible, picked it up, opened it and read the first passage he saw. It was from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Augustine read:

Not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. --Romans 13: 13-14

Reading this scripture, Augustine felt as if his heart were flooded with light. He turned totally from his life of sin. He was Baptized by Ambrose during the Easter Vigil April 24, 387. His friend Alypius and his son Adeodatus were Baptized at the same time.

Later, reflecting on this experience, Augustine wrote his famous prayer: *You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.* He went on to become a powerful influence on the spirituality and theology of the Christian Church.