



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

**Today's Prayer**

Say this prayer today:

Lord, help me to be fully  
alive to your holy  
presence.  
Enfold me in your love.  
Let my heart become one  
with yours.

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November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

33<sup>h</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

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# St. Thomas Church

**The Reflection on the Gospel**

Like the two preceding parables or short, spiritual allegorical stories, Jesus teaches the necessity of preparation for the coming judgment. But, how do we understand the underlying meaning of this brief narrative? First, we must not take every word of this "parable of the talents" literally since the evangelist Matthew himself does not do so as evidenced in his interpretative finale. Second, the word talent in the present context refers not to "natural abilities" or "skills" but to a monetary measure of about 42.5 kgs or roughly 19.3 lbs of precious metal (silver or gold). One scripture scholar reported that a talent (originally tallied as that weight which an adult could carry) was a working person's salary for 15 years! The long absent master of the house, upon his return, summoned his three servants or property managers to settle accounts with them. As in the preceding parables the stock figure of a long absent but demanding master is crucial to the story. Two elements are involved in the assessment of these three stewards: the first, and most salient, they were able to reliably discharge such responsibilities during their master's long absence; the second, and most surprising, they are to be graciously invited, if found reliable, to enter into the joy of the master. Since the reward entailed is not something that a contemporary Palestinian landlord would do, it is obvious that Jesus gives the incident an end-time significance. Gracious as it is, the invitation comes at a cost. The first two stewards are rewarded generously for industry while the third, being afraid, hid the single talent entrusted to him, and was severely rebuked for wickedness and laziness and then unceremoniously thrown into outer darkness. The moral of the story? As Jesus taught we, like the three stewards or managers, are charged with two precious commodities or talents: the gift of faith which we are never, because of fear, laziness or even our own sinfulness, to conceal or take for granted - like the third who hid the entrusted talent in the ground. The other is the inestimable gift of time which we are never to squander. I believe it was St. Ignatius Loyola (+1556) who, amidst the mite-like details of daily administration constantly reminded himself: "Quid est hoc ad aeternitatem?" or to freely paraphrase "What does this have to do with eternity?" A sobering alternative, indeed, when tempted with "burn out."

**Study of Today's Readings**

**FIRST READING:** The Book of Proverbs is a collection of sayings and wisdom poems that found its present form after the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, many verses surely came from the period of the monarchy in Judea before its fall. The poem of an ideal wife (31:10-31) comprised the last major section of Proverbs. The poem described the perfect wife as prudent, industrious, and wise. Such a woman would make a prosperous business person by today's standards. But, unlike today, the ideal wife in Proverbs did all this in the shadow of her husband. According to the custom and culture, the wife was part of the husband's family, so her loyalty belonged to her spouse. Even in acts of charity [31:20] she was to advance his reputation [31:23]. Above all, two qualities stand out, stability [31:25] and fidelity to the God of Israel [31:30 b]. Notice that the qualities of sensuality and femininity were absent [31:30a]. If we strip away the notion of the wife, the remaining qualities would describe a faithful believer. Prudent and wise. Generous and industrious. Stable and faithful. We should strive for these qualities in our lives.

**SECOND READING:** After Paul reassured the Thessalonians about the fate of those who died before the return of Jesus, he turned his attention to the favorite hobby of many Christians: speculating about

**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

# **Rule of St. Augustine**

## **Chapter Six**

41. You should avoid quarrels altogether or else put an end to them as quickly as possible; otherwise, anger may grow into hatred, making a plank out of a splinter, and turn the soul into a murderer. For so you read: "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer" (1 John 3:15).

42. Any who have injured others by open insult, or by abusive or even incriminating language, must be mindful to repair the injury as quickly as possible by an apology, and those who have suffered the injury must also forgive, without further wrangling. But if they have offended one another, they must forgive one another's trespasses for the sake of your prayers which should be recited with greater sincerity each time you repeat them. Those who are often tempted to anger but are prompt to ask pardon from those they admit to having offended are better than others who, though less given to anger, find it quite difficult to ask forgiveness. Those who are never willing to ask pardon or do not do so from the heart have no reason to be in the monastery, even if they are not expelled. Therefore, avoid overly harsh words, and if they escape your lips let those same lips not be ashamed to heal the wounds they have caused.

43. But whenever the need of maintaining discipline forces you to use harsh words in imposing order on younger members, then, even if you think you have been unduly harsh in your language, you are not required to ask forgiveness; for too great a humility on your part may undermine the authority of your office in the eyes of those who must be subject to you. But you should still ask forgiveness from the Lord of all who knows the warm love you have even for those whom you might happen to correct with undue severity. However, you are to love one another with a spiritual rather than a fleshly love.

### **CALLING ALL YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS!**

If you are interested in joining a group of young Catholic adults to meet monthly for friendly conversation, faith sharing, group outings, and more, please contact Carrie Brown at [carolynbrown402@gmail.com](mailto:carolynbrown402@gmail.com). Carrie is new to St. Thomas parish and has previous experience leading young Catholic adult groups. If you ever feel alone in your faith as a young adult, this group is for you! "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:12

## **Announcements**

\*Every Saturday Morning from 0900 to 1000, St. Thomas Church in Malastrana is collecting clothes for the **homeless** in Prague. Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Also, at this time, soup and bread is provided to the homeless before they go to receive clothing items that are presorted and distributed by volunteers. Besides clothes, the homeless may also benefit from Winter shoes, blankets, sleeping bags and general camping gear. Anyone wishing to know more can contact Father Juan

\*Remember our Parish Dinner **-Thanksgiving Dinner**, which is scheduled for Sunday at 18:00/06:00 pm, 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The dinner will be in St. Augustine School, Hornokrčská 3. Prague 4-Metro Kačerov -C-. and then walking 4 minutes. You can park also in the school parking areas.

Help will be needed for setting up/clean up. Please see Michael Rainey for details

\*During all the Sundays Masses in November we are going to pray for our death people. Please write theirs in a list in the entrance of the Church.

\*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> **marriage preparation** form 09:15 till 14:30.

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## **Advent social Project Helping to help!**

We received from our brothers in Congo the next information: "During my visit in the north I met two young men who are willing to study. The first is a nurse in Dungu, he would like to study ophthalmology, since sr Jeanne, osa died we have only one old man who is helping in the ophthalmology in Dungu. I think if you can get someone who would like to help that young man to study ophthalmology here in Kinshasa it will be great. I will let you know the total amount of the two years study in few days. The second boy is from Doruma, he has just finish secondary school, he would like to study law because many people do not know their right. He is looking for someone who can help him with 1500\$ for three years study( 500\$ each year) starting if possible this school year".

It a possibility for our community to help someone that is going to help many. More information with Fr. Juan