



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

# St. Thomas Church

## Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

Dear Lord as I come to you  
today  
Fill my heart and my whole  
being  
with the wonder of your  
presence

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March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

The Second Sunday of  
Lent -B

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## Reflection on the Gospel

We have begun our Lenten journey with Mark, the evangelist, as guide and teacher. In last week's gospel reading he drew us into the desert experience of Jesus' first victory over diabolic opposition. Today's lesson has been termed a "transfiguration." Was this mysterious event some "post-resurrection" appearance or a theological reflection? It seems that Mark gives indication that it was, indeed, some sort of vision since the apostles, Peter, James and John, were said to be taken "aside," a phrase usually introducing a revelation or some ecstatic experience. And as with many such divine appearances in the Old or first Testament, this event, too, is set on a mountain traditionally identified with Mount Tabor in northern Israel. The personages involved are Jesus, bathed in extraordinary glory so indicative in the Old Testament of divine presence; and the figures of Moses, the lawgiver, and Elijah, the prophet, who serve as corroborating witnesses for Jesus' person and divinely mandated mission. The presence of these two preeminent pillars of Israel's religious tradition verify that the word of God mediated on Mount Sinai and vindicated on Mount Carmel is the same as the good news being proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth. Meanwhile the three frightened apostles-the core of the new community-are commanded, as Israel once was, to "listen to him." Peter, terrified at this phenomenon, offers to build three huts (or booths). In the second temple period (ca. 520 BC-AD 70), the religious feast of Booths, commemorating those desert years when Israel lived in tents, was popularly believed to be the moment of the Messiah's expected appearance. Elijah, in fact, was to reappear in Israel as the immediate precursor of the messianic age, which for Peter, James and John, was now. Dawning as the shekinah or cloud of glory seemed to confirm. But, that was to come later. For "looking up they saw no one, only Jesus." It is these final words that give us a clue to the passage. Perhaps, there were member of Mark's community who were still looking for extraordinary signs or were even tempted to reenter mainstream Judaism for reassured faith. Some may have even felt that "the gospel was not enough" in their quest for religious fulfillment or needed answers. It may be the same with us. Easily discouraged and callous in our practice of faith we can fall into a deadening routine with disastrous consequences. Exits from such perceived "blind alleys" via lucky charms, astrology, tarot cards, fortunetellers, mediums/spiritualists, board games or even satanism -naïve as all this may sound- often end in degrading superstition. In our questions and doubts, we, like the bewildered apostles, must look up and see only Jesus. Our Lenten journey ends in his resurrected glory.

## Study of the First Reading

God's call was one in a series. Even when God had given Abraham and Sarah a sign of his faithfulness in the birth of their child, God continued to call. Abraham's response was immediate. Human sacrifice was repugnant to the Hebrews, but was known in the ancient world. Sacrifice meant the offering of self to the gods, or the offering of great personal worth. A first born male represented the continuation of one's identity through a child and the most precious thing a man could have on earth, his son. Offering such to the gods was only second to self-sacrifice. The sacrifice of Isaac presented great moral problems to the reader. Why did God order Abraham to do what is clearly against his own Law? First, what was more important: God's Law or God's will? If we follow God's Law, we are "safe," but are we following God's will? If we follow God's will, how are we sure we are not fooling ourselves? Second, was God free from his own Law? Didn't that make God inconsistent, and imperfect? What did this act say about God? Like the problem of evil in the world, there are no easy answers, only more questions to vex one's faith.

**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](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

## Parish project for Lent:

Dear Parishioners in St. Thomas in Praha,

here is the overview for a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa of the Congo who lives and works in Nairobi in Kenya:

Course	Duration	Intake	Fees/per term	Application fee	Caution money	Registration related charges	Exam fee	Total
Mechanical Engineering	9 Terms	May	335 \$ x 9 = 3015 \$ (addition of 25 % for non Kenyan = 754 \$)	14 \$	07 \$	16 \$	80 \$	3896 \$

NB: Other fees are not mentioned because not foreseen.

For example: Books, transport, materials (equipments), training fees.

For books, transport, materials etc.: 1104 \$.

Sum: 3896 \$ + 1104 \$ = 5000 \$.

The student is Fr. Lucien Gumesa who actually is the master of Professed in Nairobi and the Bursar. The studies are to be taken in Nairobi in Kenya. Fr. Lucien will be during the studies still the Bursar of the International House in Nairobi.

Thank you very much already now if you could realize a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Franz Klein OSA, Assistant General in charge of Africa



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách  
1262–2012  
S nadějí a radostí

### 750 ANNIVERSARY ODF THE AUGUSTINIANS IN HE CZECH REPUBLIC 1262-2012

**With Hope and Joy!**

In 1244 Pope Innocent IV gathered several congregations of religious- some with the *Rule of Saint Augustine* and others without, into a regularly constituted and officially recognised *Order of Hermits of Saint Augustine of Tuscany* (Italy). The new Order spread rapidly throughout central and north western Europe reaching England in 1249 and Paris some years later. Some sources even indicate that the Williamites who joined the Augustinian Order in 1256 may possibly have had some monasteries in such places as Pivon and, possibly, Sv. Dobrotiva-Zajecov. However, what is certain that Oldrich Zajec Waldek with large holdings in the Beroun-Pilzen countryside formally invited the new *Order of Hermits of Saint Augustine* on 24 March 1262 to Zajecov where he commenced to build a new monastery atop a small hill whose contours suggested an "Island." His motives were varied. According to some historians the monastery was founded in thanksgiving for the great victory of Kresbrun; others attribute the foundation to the intervention of the Mother of God revealed in a dream to Lord Oldrich. By 1264 the Monastery dedicated to the *Annuciation of Mary* was solemnly consecrated: the Augustinians now began their years of ministry in the Czech lands.

**First anniversary celebration day: 24.4.2012 at 1:00pm in the Monastery of sv. Dobrotiva in Zaječov**

#### Annual March for Life:

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

Sv. Jilji. (St. Giles) Church, Husova 8, Prague 1.

Mass: 13 -14 pm.

March: 14 – 16pm.

**From the Church to Vaclavske Namesti.**

Since 1957 3,200,000 unborn children in this nation have lost their lives to abortion.

### 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](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)
- ❖ **Marriage Preparation:** The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 17th March from 9:15am - 3pm at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate.
- ❖ Help at Sv. Dobrotiva in Zaječov the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. If you're at least 11 years old and you wish to help, meet at Sv. Thomas before 9:15. In March will be the 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### \*\*\*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 06:15 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

#### Praying Lent 2012:

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

<http://www.villanova.edu/mission/officeofthevicepresident/publications/seasonalreflections/lent/>