



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH  
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE  
GOSPEL.**

*With Hope and Joy!*

May 05<sup>th</sup> and May 06<sup>th</sup>  
2012

The Fifth Sunday of  
Easter- B

# St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556,

602 643 365

## The Reflection of the Gospel

To understand this gospel reading taken from John, it is necessary to remember that these are among the last words of Jesus delivered before his arrest at the instigation of Judas Iscariot, his mock trial before Annas and Caiphas and his sentencing before Pilate. These “last minute admonitions” immediately preceding those tragic events reflect the cultural milieu within which Jesus lived and died. Let us reflect for a moment. First, the *vineyards, vinedressers, estate-owners* and the vulnerable and beholden clients were common enough fixtures in Roman Palestine as in any other wine-producing regions of the Mediterranean. Examples drawing on this vital commercial activity abound in the Bible. Thus, Isaiah, the prophet (ca. 720 BC) describes Israel as “the vineyard of the Lord” even though at times “unproductive” is nonetheless lovingly coaxed by God “the patron or the owner” to repent in his forgiving embrace. Using the same prophetic language, Paul the apostle describes Israel’s rejection of Jesus’ own messianic mission and identity. The writers in both testaments, therefore, utilize this image of the Lord “the patron of the vineyard” (here Israel and the Church) - mercifully gentle yet insistent on his call to fidelity. The harvest or final judgment will be a time of reckoning and justice. *Patronage* in ancient times, especially during political upheavals and economic crises, was a last resort for the downtrodden *clients* in their search for basic necessities and security. Throughout its stormy history Israel regarded itself as the particular heritage of the Lord with the ever-watchful prophets as the intermediate *brokers*. In the New Testament, the Church, too, looks to its patron the “Lord of the harvest” and “judgment” whose will is now revealed through Jesus Christ. The “pruning” so needed and often so painful for continued healthy growth ensures the client gracious entrée for “whatever is asked for in faith.” John emphasizes here that with, in and through Jesus we always have confident access to God from whom nothing can deter. “Live on in me” says Jesus.

[www.augustiniani.cz](http://www.augustiniani.cz)

## Study of the First Reading

The scene shifted from Peter's ministry (last week) to Paul's early efforts. Saul of Tarsus, an intellectual Pharisee and opponent of the Christians, had a conversion experience (see Acts 9:1-9). Now, as Paul, he was a strong voice for the young Christian movement. Yet, many in the movement did not trust him [26].

Barnabas befriended Paul and spoke for him to the Church leadership in Jerusalem [27]. Once he was introduced, Paul made his own presence known in the Jerusalem [28]. We know that the reaction was negative. Jewish Christians still kept their distance from this former enemy, while Paul's former allies among the Pharisees felt betrayed [29]. In the light of threats from zealous Jewish converts, Paul escaped and returned home [30].

Luke added a final note about the growth in the early Palestinian church [31].

What happened to Paul was not surprising. With a sudden dramatic change, Paul found his friends were few and far between. In addition, his presence was a threat to others in the Christian community; because of Paul, others might suffer. In the end, Paul went away.

**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, OSA if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz). Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

[osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

The **15th Annual Marian Pilgrimage** to the Shrine of the Gracious Madonna, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zaječov, will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We meet in front of St. Joseph's Church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, May 19. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism.

## Our Lady of Grace

May 8

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to the village of Nazareth. He went to the home of a young girl called Mary, and greeted her, "Hail, full of grace..." -  
-cf. Luke 1: 26-28

This greeting is the basis of the title Lady of Grace. It was at this time that Mary became the mother of Jesus, that is to say, the mother of the author and dispenser of Grace.

The Order of Saint Augustine, since its very early days, has held special honor for Mary under the title Mother of Grace, or Lady of Grace.

**Fr. William, our pastor, celebrates his birthday on Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulation and God bless you!**

**Icon workshop** at St. Thomas the Apostle, Prague-

Monday July 2 to Saturday July7, 2012 6 days  
9:30 to 4:30 one hour for lunch.

Limited to 10 participants.

Workshop/retreat given by Fr. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA  
The workshop/retreat consists of painting an icon of St. Augustine of Hippo, 11 h X 9 w. It will be in the Byzantine Russian tradition using panel, egg tempera and 22 k gold leaf. All supplies and notes will be provided.  
The workshop/retreat will give participates time to reflect on the spirituality of the "icon" as it applies to its place in the Church and the symbolism that is used in the process. At the end of the workshop/retreat participates will leave with a finish icon.

The cost for the workshop/retreat is \$420.00 US dollars. Very important **NO ARTISTIC TALENT NECESSARY** only a desire is required.

## Announcements and Ongoing Activities

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

\*We are looking for an **English teacher** for next school year for our School in -Prague 4. If you are interesting, please contact with fr. Juan [juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)

\*We are organizing a pilgrimage to Poland, Czestochowa, **25.5. - 27.5. 2012. Price 1500.- CZK** For concrete information ask Fr. Juan. [Juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:Juan@augustiniani.cz) or 602684538.

\*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 12<sup>th</sup> May at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate.

\*Our regular **organist** and pianist for the last few years will be leaving us at the end of June. If you can play the keyboard or guitar, even if only on an occasional basis, we would like to hear from you! Please contact the director of the choir Tim Young: [tim@young.co.cz](mailto:tim@young.co.cz)

\*May 27<sup>th</sup> is **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY**. Again we ask that you pray for these young parishioners as they approach the Eucharist for the first time

## THE 9th PARISH AND SCHOOL FESTIVAL

**We share life!**

Kampa park  
Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012  
1:00pm-10:00pm

Games and activities for for all ages: Music for all around the world, photos of the history of the Church, dance...  
Costumes of the Earth, Africa, Augustinian fraternity, games,  
Cooking Competition...  
Theater  
Program for children: games, ponies, castles, piñata...  
Clown Roberto  
Presentation of activities  
And much more....

**Come to celebrate with us!!!**