



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.



May 18nd and May 19<sup>th</sup>  
2013

**Pentecost**

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# St. Thomas Church

Jesus commissioned his followers to partake in his Messianic ministry. At the time of Jesus, Jews believed the Messiah mission at the end of time was universal. They held the Messiah would go out from Jerusalem to the known world, spread the Good News of salvation, and incite a massive pilgrimage to Palestine. As he gathered all Jews spread throughout the world home, he would call all peoples to Jerusalem so they, too, could worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Jerusalem, the Messiah would judge this massive throng in a Final Judgement, the Day of Yahweh. The Resurrection appearance marked the starting point for this process. From Jerusalem, Jesus sent his followers out as missionaries to the known world. They would testify to the Risen Christ as the Good News of salvation. And the Good News would start the journey home for both Jews and Gentiles. What happened to the Jerusalem pilgrimage? There were two possible answers. First, the Romans leveled Jerusalem in response to the Jewish revolt in 66 A.D. Both the city and the Christian mother church turned to rubble. The Jerusalem church could no longer commission missionaries. Second, Christians spiritualized the pilgrimage. The return home always included the theme of repentance; the sinner who walked away from God's dwelling place turned around and journeyed back. For the Christian, a heavenly Jerusalem became an abode for God. The sinner could find earthly reflection of Jerusalem in the local church community. Hence, conversion and repentance were close to home. So, the followers saw their vocation within God's plan of salvation. The Father sent the Son into the world to lead everyone back to the Father. Jesus would involve his followers in that same work. Since they witnessed Jesus risen, his followers would witness to others. But Jesus gave them more than a witness. He gave them the Holy Spirit. The breathe and command to "Receive the Holy Spirit" must be seen as two parts of the same action. "Them" (the followers) was the object of "Jesus breathed on" and the indirect object of "Jesus said." As Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit out, the text inferred, his follower would breath it in, just as Jesus commanded. We have already discussed the connection between breathe and Spirit in past studies. The word for "Spirit" in both Greek ("pnema") and Hebrew ("ruah") was the same for breathe or wind. Ancient people believed that any moment of air was the result of power. Breathe was the result of an inner power, one's life force or spirit. Strong winds that caused death and destruction were the result of God's inner power judging sin. The breathe of inner life and violent winds, Jews believed, came from one source, God. So, God's Spirit was a life-giving, and life-taking power. (See Genesis 1:1 and Acts 2:7). Once the followers breathed in God's Spirit, they shared in the Messiah's power of judgement with the power to declare sins forgiven. John 20:23 referred to the followers' preaching of the Good News. Missionaries like the apostles and Paul, proclaimed a reconciliation of sinners to the Father through Christ; when sinners repented and converted to Christianity, they were cleansed in the waters of baptism. In the context of this verse, the process of reconciliation began with the proclamation of the Good News (declare sins forgiven) and continued through baptism (they are forgiven).

### COME, HOLY GHOST

#### **Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest**

And in our hearts take up thy rest.  
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid  
//To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

**To Thee, the Comforter, we cry,**  
To Thee, the Gift of God most high,  
The fount of life and fire of love,  
//The soul's anointing from above.

**The sevenfold gifts of grace are Thine**  
The finger of the hand divine;  
True promise of the Father Thou,  
//Who dost the tongue with speech endow.

**Thy light to every thought impart,**  
And shed thy love in every heart,  
Our body's poor infirmity  
//With strength perpetual fortify.

**Our mortal foe afar repel,**  
Grant us, henceforth in peace to dwell;  
If Thou be our good gracious guide,  
//No evil can our steps betide.

**Make Thou to us the Father known;**  
Teach us the Eternal Son to own,  
And Thee, whose Name we ever bless,  
//Of both the Spirit to confess.

**All glory while the ages run**  
Be to the *Father* and the *Son*,  
Who rose from death, the same to Thee,  
//O *Holy Ghost*, eternally. **Amen.**

**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, OSA if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)"

ST. THOMAS PARISH  
IS INVITING YOU TO:

**THE PLACEMENT AND THE BLESSING OF  
THE STATUE OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF COBRE**

*THE CEREMONY OF LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
WILL BE PRESIDED BY ARCHBISHOP OF PRAGUE  
CARDINAL DOMINIK DUKA*

DATE: TUESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2013  
TIME: 7 PM  
PLACE: THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS  
JOSEFSKÁ 8, PRAHA 1



**Saint Rita of Cascia, OSA  
May 22**

Known as the “Saint of the Impossible” and the “Peacemaker”, Rita (1380?-1457?) overcame many difficulties throughout her life. She had a generous love and a deep sense of penance. She was able to bring about peace between rival families and heal divisions between hostile groups of people.

Born in Roccaporena, Cascia, Italy around the year 1380, Rita Lotti at an early age wanted to become a nun. Her parents, however, insisted that she marry. So, at the age of 14, she married Paolo Mancini, a man who was a bit “rough around the edges”.

Rita was a good influence on Paolo. They lived harmoniously for 18 years and had two twin sons. Paolo, who had settled down and become a responsible adult, worked as the town watchman. One day, members of a local political faction ambushed and murdered him.

Their sons, influenced by their local environment and by angry family members, wanted to avenge their father's murder. Rita forgave her husband's killers. She prayed that her sons would die rather than follow the unwritten “law of vendetta” and take revenge upon the murderers. In fact, both sons did die from natural causes shortly afterwards.

Rita, now without a family, sought to fulfill her desires to become a religious sister. At first the nuns of the Augustinian convent of Saint Mary Magdelene did not want to receive her, partly because she had been a married woman and partly because some of the sisters were relatives of Paolo's killers. Rita persisted. She prayed and worked to establish peace between the hostile factions of Cascia. Finally she was accepted into the convent.

She remained in the cloister during the final 40 years of her life. Fifteen years before her death, while at prayer, she received on her forehead the mark of a thorn from Jesus' crown of thorns.

During the last four years of her life, Rita was seriously ill. She died May 22, 1457 (although a few writers give the year of her death as 1447). Her remains are preserved in the Church of Saint Rita in Cascia.

**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)

\*May 19<sup>th</sup> is **Confirmation** Sunday in our Church at 11:00am Mass .

\*May 26th is **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY**. Again we ask that you pray for these young parishioners as they approach the Eucharist for the first time.

\* Please note: on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Czech, the English, the Spanish speaking communities and other expatriate communities together will celebrate the feast of **Corpus Christi** which honours the Eucharistic presence of Christ. Mass for all our communities will be at 09:30 am. there will be no Mass at 11:00 am. Immediately after Mass the procession with the Blessed Sacrament through Malastrana

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**The 10th PARISH FESTIVAL**

Mission festival

Saint Thomas Church

Park Kampa from 10am till 10pm

1<sup>st</sup> . June 2013

Program for children; Program for families; Theater Dance, music; Presentation of the activities of the Church; BBQ for all; Raffle; And a lot of surprises...

**Fr. William's 50<sup>th</sup> Priest anniversary**

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. William's Priest ordination will be on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> of June at 11:00am Mass. For more information, ideas or how to collaborate, please see Monika Shaheen, Michael Rainey or Fr. Juan