



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



**YEAR OF FAITH:**  
**OCT. 11, 2012-NOV. 24, 2013**  
"The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church."---Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei for the Indiction of the Year of Faith.

October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>  
2013

The Twenty Ninth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time – Year C

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# St. Thomas Church

## GOSPEL STUDY

A *parable* is a short story from which a moral lesson can be drawn. Today's gospel reading of the persistent widow is a lesson on persevering prayer. The widow in the ancient world stood on the margins of society, helpless as she was, after her husband's death. Charity would be her only recourse. Legally "voiceless" she could only appeal to the local judge who, as it turns out, is a mean spirited bureaucrat. Dismissing hopes for any pecuniary recompense "caring neither for man or God" he coldly avoids the widow's pleas. But she does not desist. In desperation the judge (possibly fearing physical assault) relents and grants her a favorable judgement. In brief the lesson is simple as profound. Recall the first reading wherein Moses prayed "with outstretched arms" for his embattled people. As long as his arms remained aloft the struggle went in their favor; when lowered the tide turned against them. Persevering in prayer meant victory. With the widow we have the following lesson. If a cruel judge would hear the request of the bereft widow how much *more* would God hear the prayers of the needy and helpless? Is our prayer that persevering?

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)" or contact Fr. Juan at "[juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)" Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

## St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, O.S.A.

20<sup>th</sup> October

Magdalene was born and grew up during a period of open and undisguised hostility toward religion. Persecution was manifest to all. The types of "imaginative and original" torture used by the opponents of the faith show very clearly the hatred in the hearts of those who ruled.

Her parents, who are described by historians as "most virtuous and noble Christians," were martyred about the year 1620, when their daughter was in her early adolescence. The first Augustinians who arrived in Japan in 1623 were members of the Augustinian Order's observant movement: Fathers Francis of Jesus and Vincent of Saint Anthony. As an active and enthusiastic Christian, Magdalene made contact with them and though communication was difficult, she worked with them as an interpreter and later as a catechist. From the start she found herself well disposed to Augustinian spirituality, characterized as it is by the search for God, interiority, and the living of faith in communion with others.

In their work of evangelization the missionaries emphasized the promotion of religious associations and gave special attention to the Augustinian Third Order. However, it was quite difficult for Christians to live their faith publicly. To approach the missionaries for doctrinal and religious nourishment was risky for themselves as well as the friars. Following the example of many other Christians in similar difficulties, Magdalene took refuge in the hills and dedicated herself to baptizing converts and sustaining those who have grown weak in their faith.

The persecution made necessary all sorts of subterfuge, but Magdalene did not lose heart. She knew what she wanted and did not hold back in spite of the dangers: she asked to be accepted formally into the Augustinian Order. Her mind and heart were already Augustinian; in 1625, Father Francis admitted her into the Third Order of Saint Augustine.

In 1632 the Augustinian friars, who had been her spiritual counselors, were burned alive. This holocaust was recognized and solemnly proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1876. Magdalene kept alive the memory of these friars, and with it grew her own desire for martyrdom. Now her counselors in the struggle were two other Augustinians, Fathers Melchior of Saint Augustine and Martin of Saint Nicholas, who continued to nourish her spirit on the ideals and practices of Augustinian spirituality. When these two friars were also put to death, she turned to Father Jordan of Saint Stephen, a Dominican whose own profession was based on the Rule of St. Augustine.

The brave spirit and conviction of this Augustinian tertiary moved her to go voluntarily to the jailers and declare herself a follower of Jesus Christ. There were threats, tortures, promises of exposure to public scorn, taunts, ridicule—all the usual procedures in such cases. But Magdalene had a clear knowledge of her faith and of the obligation which she had freely taken on. Attired in her Augustinian habit, she reached the end of her martyrdom on 16 October 1634, after thirteen days of torture, suspended upside down in a pit of filth. After death her body was burned and her ashes scattered in the bay of Nagasaki.

Three hundred and forty-seven years later, on 18 February 1981, in the city of Manila, Pope John Paul II honored Magdalene with the title of Blessed. Then on 18 October 1987, World Mission Day, she was solemnly canonized in Rome by the same Holy Father. Proclaimed with Saint Magdalene was a large number of martyrs from the Land of the Rising Sun, of various nationalities and states of life and of different religious orders. The life of Magdalene, martyr of Japan, honored for the firmness and courage of her faith, is a song in praise of heroism. To live the gospel as she did with fervent resolve, in a clear, complete, and radical way, without failing or yielding is the heritage of great souls.

**Mission 2013**  
**St. Augustine**

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

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Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

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Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.

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Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.

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Patience is the companion of wisdom.

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Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering.

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Forgiveness is the remission of sins. For it is by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again.

**Ongoing Activities**

- ❖ If you would like to receive a **copy of the bulletin by email**, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)
- ❖ We welcome all our guests and especially those who will be living and working in Prague during this coming year. All are invited to refreshments immediately after Mass in the monastery refectory
- ❖ Are you interested in helping in the parish? We can use ushers, readers, acolytes, teachers, refreshment/ set up-cleaning up. You can meet us in the refectory, please come and introduce yourselves.
- ❖ **Bible Study** sessions are held each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.
- ❖ **Religious education for adult** every Monday from 06:30
- ❖ St. Thomas Catholic Religious Education program. Classes will be held every Sunday (except school holidays ) from **9:45 to 10:45**.

***Parishoners Day - Sunday October 20st  
immediately following Mass***

St. Thomas Church will hold its 3rd Parishoners Day on Sunday October 21st, 2013. This is an opportunity to meet fellow parishoners, our Priests, Parish Council members and to learn more about "What's Happening" and how to get involved.

**Election for new Parish Council.**

Candidates for the new Parish Council:

Bear Midkiff  
Mary Beth Webster  
William Revellese  
Ann Daily  
David Manley  
Boris Braun

The election of the Parish Council will be October 20<sup>th</sup> after 11 am mass. The community will elect 3 candidates.

American, male professional seeking roommate now through September 2014.

Living in refurbished 2-bedroom "panelak" in Barrandorf 2 minute walk from 20/14/12 tram line. 7500 crowns per month, utilities and wifi included. Enjoys cooking, cycling. Will be gone end of October to end of December. Prefers czech roommate with whom to practice the language. No smoking, please. Justin 731245527