



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

St. Thomas Church

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Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

"Be still and know that I am
God."

Lord, Your words lead us to
the
calmness and greatness of
your presence.

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Jun 01st 2014

Seventh Easter Sunday
Or
Ascension of the Lord

The Reflection of the Gospel

Once the horror of their Master's death had faded in resurrection light, the once despondent disciples regather in the peaceful assurances of their Lord. His final instructions are given and *he ascends and sits at the right hand of Almighty God*. Far from being a finale, Jesus' short earthly ministry *continues* through and within the ministry of his faithful now gathered as a Church. This inaugural moment yet awaits completion with the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclet ("Intercessor") *who will recall to mind all that I have taught you*. As with such events Mark leaves much to the imagination. Leaning heavily on Old (First) Testament language he emphasizes that *the saving hand of God had worked these (recounted) deeds alone*. Little did this motley group of bewildered disciples realize what lay ahead! The world they knew was certainly not waiting for their message. Their faith - soon to be tested by those evils characterized as the devil, deadly serpents and poisonous potions - would prevail through the assurances of such signs as speaking in tongues, healings and exorcisms. Yet, powers such as these have been conferred on us in Baptism uneasy as that might seem to many Christians! Let me paraphrase a startling passage in *Mark* that warrants close reflection: *The Lord who continues to work through us is the One who confirms this message with signs that accompany us* (Mark 16:20). In brief, we, who have been baptized and thus armed with Christ's power, are called *into the world* to proclaim *his word* with confidence. The mystery is that for a variety of reasons we do not claim this authority. Awed by the authority "of the ordained" or constrained by either indifference or lack of conviction we fall into compromise. Let the priests "do that"; how about lay ministers and "all those 'church' people who revel in such activities? With the drop in vocations, lay ministry maybe closer than we think. Let this feast of the Ascension be a reaffirmation and recommitment to the handing on of the "good news"; let us hand it on with the assurance of God's promise: *I am with you always*.

Study of the First Reading

Anticipation is a national disease. We Americans hate to wait; we want everything now! Yet, we spend more time and energy preparing to celebrate a major event than actually enjoying the event itself. The Christmas season clearly shows off our obsession with anticipation.

The first reading has an atmosphere of anticipation. The author of Luke's gospel and Acts (who we will refer by his traditional named "Luke") begins the history of the early Church with a note to Theophilus [1]. The first book, the gospel of Luke, put a light on Jesus and his mission. Now, the Church becomes the focus. Like a good writer, Luke drops hints to answer his friend's question: "What will happen next?"

Who is this "Theophilus?" We do not know who he was, or if this person even existed. The word Theophilus means "friend of God." It is a proper name; it can be a nick name or title. Because it could mean different things in different contexts, Luke could have been writing to a person or a group of people. Luke could have even been addressing the reader. You or I could be the "friend of God" to whom Luke writes.

To build up the anticipation, Luke summarizes the life of Jesus [3] and then adds the promise of the Spirit [4-5]. The disciples, however, are not satisfied with this answer. They still want to know when Jesus will return as Messiah [6]. Do they wait for the right event? Luke says, "No." The day and time, even the timing, are reserved for God the Father [7]. "Do not wait for things to be done for you," Luke seems to say. "Wait instead for God's Spirit, so God will give you the power to do it for yourself [8]."

As Jesus speaks, he disappears from view [9]. But, the disciples still don't get it. They stand there and wait for Jesus' return [10]. Yes, he will return, but don't waste your life in passive anticipation. There is work to be done! And God will send his Spirit to work through us, so we can continue the mission Jesus began.

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 if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "wfaix@yahoo.com" or contact Fr. Juan at juan@augustiniani.cz Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin.

FEASTS AND OTHER ANNIVERSARIES: June

- 05 Boniface** (+754) was an English monk who preached the faith to the German people and was martyred at the age of 80. The “Apostle to the Germans” is buried in Fulda.
-Denmark’s Constitution was promulgated in 1849.
-Igor Stravinsky, the Russian composer, was born in 1882.
-Frederico Garcia Lorca, the Spanish writer, was born in 1898.
- 06 Norbert** (+1134), the Archbishop of Magdeburg, Germany, was the founder of the Premonstratensians or Norbertines. His earthly remains are enshrined in our neighboring Strachov Abbey parish, “the Mount Sion” of Bohemia.
-Diego Valasquez, the Spanish painter was born in 1599.
-Carl Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist, died in 1961.
-The Lidice tragedy in Czechoslovakia occurred this day in 1942.
- Sweden observes Flag Day.
- 07 Robert of Newminster** (+1159), the abbot and founder of Fountains Abbey, England, died.
-Robert the Bruce (+1329), the famous warrior king of Scotland, died this day.
-Paul Gauguin, the French Post-Impressionist Painter, was born in 1848.

Ongoing Activities

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

***Lectors and Eucharistic ministers** : If you would like to support the community as a lector or Eucharistic minister at mass on Sunday's please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com . I would also like to hear from those who took part in the training session for Eucharistic ministry last February.

11th PARISH FESTIVAL

It is time to celebrate!

Saint Thomas Monastery

Saturday, June 7th 2014

16:11pm-10:11pm

16:11 Program fro children

17: 11 Theater Games and activities for all ages:

Music 18:00 Mass in English

18:11 Program for families:

Visit of the Augustinian library of St. Thomas

Painting for children

Workshop “piñatas” for children

19:00 Clown Roberto

19:11 BBQ for everybody

19:45 Music for all around the world: Mariachis from Mexico.

21:11 Tombola

22:11 Celebration of the light!

And much more....

Photos competition (do some photos during the whole celebration and the best will have some prices!)

Cooking competition (bring some specialty of your own country)...

Come to celebrate with us!!!

Saint Augustine’s School

“A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom”

Hornokrčská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč

www.skolasvatehoaugustina.cz

