



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

Lord, help me to be fully
alive to your holy presence.
Enfold me in your love.
Let my heart become one
with yours.

October 04th - 05th 20148

27th Sunday of Ordinary
Time - A

The Reflection of the Gospel

This parable of *vineyard and the vinedressers*, the second of five interrelated controversial responses in Matthew's gospel are among Jesus' last recorded statements marking the end of his three year public ministry. As with every parable- defined as a *spiritually motivating lesson delivered allegorically within the context of a short story*- it has a designated audience in mind. In this instance (as in last week's story of the *two sons*) it was the Temple establishment which the Gospels, perhaps, inaccurately, lump together as *the chief priests, the scribes, the elders and the Pharisees*. The ultra-orthodox Pharisees here could hardly be classed as allies of the priestly caste openly suspected as Roman collaborators but Jesus' pointed remarks had aroused such outraged opposition that they, Pharisees and priests alike on the severity of his prophetic denunciations united in common cause against him. Today's gospel reading so explicitly critical of the chief priests and the Pharisees prompted Jesus' excoriating statements because they, the religious establishment, in face of his miracles and works, adamantly rejected him as mediator of God's message. *Israel*, the beloved vineyard or possession of the Lord, tended by the *tenant workers* or religious leaders (i.e., the chief priests and the Pharisees) has been repeatedly visited and warned by the *messengers* or the *prophets*. Finally, the parable ominously states, they encounter the presence of the *householder's only son and heir* whom they shamefully abuse, *cast out and murder*. A clear reference to Jesus' own expected fate.

The spiritual analogy is clear enough. These contemporary religious leaders (and all called to such service) if impervious to the needs of the people of God (*the vineyard*) will themselves be ultimately and in gloriously removed from service. Other *tenant vineyard dressers* will take their place and give the *vineyard owner the fruits in proper time*. For us called to service in the Church as the pope, bishops and priests must first regard ourselves as servants. We will be held accountable before God on two accounts: perseverance and fidelity. Pray for us to accomplish this in our ministry.

Study of the Today's Readings

FIRST READING

Isaiah, a prophet in the royal court, bravely spoke against the corruption of power elite in Jerusalem and the lax fidelity of the people at large. Serving in the second half of the eighth century, the prophet drew a clear line between the sin of the people and the chaotic political situation in which they found themselves. War after war raged on their borders and threatened to engulf Judea. "Why was God abandoning his people?" the nation asked. Isaiah answered with the song of the vineyard. The key to interpretation lay in verse seven. From this vantage point, the song makes sense. God planted his people like a vineyard. He granted it protection and favor (choice vine planted on a fertile hill with hedges and a look-out tower). Isaiah then challenged a popular view the people had about themselves ("We are the Chosen People") with a call for judgment. The fruit of such a carefully planted and tended vineyard was sour; the people God protected and grew was unfaithful and unjust. What should God do? At this point, the prophet declared the judgment: God would abandon his people, just as his people had abandoned him.

SECOND READING

As Paul ended his letter to the Philippians, he exhorted his audience to prayer and a life focused on virtue. For Paul, prayer should be honest and all inclusive; the petitioner should open his or her heart to the Lord so peace could replace anxiety. Yes, the small community of believers could experience the misunderstanding, prejudice, and abuse of outsiders, but within the assembly, they could know the peace that came from the presence of Christ. At the end of the passage, Paul offered himself as an example of prayer and solid living. While this might seem a exercise in pride and bravado, Paul actually had a point. Even though he preached to the Gentiles and made himself unclean by socializing with them, he was a highly educated and observant Jew; he knew and obeyed the Law. Greek and Roman society admired Jews for their ethical standards and moral lifestyle, even if the notion of kosher eluded them. In addition, he lived a Christian life on the edge; he was a missionary who faced danger and death. He was proud of the wounds he suffered for Christ. His lifelong dedication to Torah observance and his burning desire to evangelize made Paul the ideal example. He had overcome anxiety when he faced persecution; he knew what it took to live a life that was faithful, pure and

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

Activities

- If you would like to receive a copy of the **bulletin** by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz
- **Help at Sv. Dobrotiva in Zaječov** next Saturday October 11th. We meet in front of Saint Thomas and we will be back at 05:00pm. Thanks for your help to restore this Marian place.
- Next Friday from 4: Pm till 09:00pm **feast of the beer** in St. Thomas Monastery. You are invited to know about the beer tradition in St Thomas Monastery
- If you would like to serve as a lector or Eucharistic minister at the Sunday mass please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com. Training will be provided for those who have not previously served in these ministries.
- Every Saturday at 9:00am **feeding of the homeless**, as social service
- **Bible Study** takes place every Tuesday from 18:30-19:30 in Tagaste room. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about our sacred scriptures.
- **Adult Religious Education** will be held every Wednesday at 18:30. Tagaste room

European Taize Meeting in Prague

The next European Meeting will be held in the city and region of Prague, from 29 December 2014 to 2 January 2015. The Taizé Community is preparing the meeting at the invitation of the Czech Bishops' Conference and the Council of Czech Churches. It will bring together several tens of thousands of young adults for the next step of the "pilgrimage of trust on earth" initiated by Brother Roger at the end of the 1970s.

Young people from all over Europe and beyond will be hosted by the people and local church communities of the region.

At the heart of Europe, the city of a thousand towers and a thousand steeples still brings together peoples and persons from different horizons, offering warm hospitality through its cultural treasures and its spiritual heritage.



[[Necessities drive]

To get our clothing charity ready for the upcoming winter months, we are holding a Necessities Drive – items especially needed are warm winter clothes, especially men's coats, socks, sweaters/sweatshirts, gloves and hats. Other necessities that are especially needed are men's underwear and t-shirts or thermal garments. Items can be dropped off in front of the clothing charity door (top of the wheelchair ramp in the courtyard). Thank you for your generosity!

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BOY-SCOUTS GROUP IN OUR SCHOOL

We have a boy-scouts 'group in our school, and we are searching scouters (educators, adult scout leaders). If you like nature and work with children, if you speak some Czech and will be the next two or three years in Prague, don't hesitate! For more information, contact Fr. Antonio, antoniorivas@augustiniani.cz, 608227686.

We are inviting you to go for our traditional autumn trip to the Bohemian Karst – this time from Srbsko to Zadní Třebáň The meeting point is at the cash desks at the railway station Praha-Smíchov on Saturday, **18 October 2014, at 8:45.**

The expected time of return is around 4 p.m., the trip route is 13 km long.

DSA International Christmas Festival

The Diplomatic Spouses Association will hold its annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, November 16, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel Prague.

The annual festival is the most important charity event in the Czech Republic.

A limited number of free entry tickets will be available at the St Thomas Parish.

Tickets may also be purchased online
<http://dsaprague.org> at the price of 100kc.

Sr. Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC.

Born in 1901 in Bayonne, -New Jersey. She was a brilliant student finishing College studies at 21 years. After her parent's death she entered the Sisters of Charity in 1925. Experiencing special spirituals grace she died May 8th 1927. She left a rich spiritual legacy in her Conferences. Her beatification took place on October 04th 2014 in Newark, NY. She was a relative of Fr. William, our pastor.