



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

# St. Thomas Church

## Today's Prayer

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.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
and November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014

The Thirty Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time – Year A

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

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## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Tracing the evolution of the church's calendar would serve as interesting history. Today's solemnity of Christ the King is a case in point. As far as feasts go, it was placed on the Church's calendar only in 1925. After the first World War (1914-1918) that triad of competing ideologies: nationalism, national socialism (nazism) and atheistic communism (marxism) broke upon the international scene to haunt us ever since. The pope at the time, Pius XI (1922-+1939), so challenged, unequivocally proclaimed the kingship of Jesus Christ. The preface of today's Mass reminds us that Jesus "as king claims dominion over all creation, that he may present to you, his almighty Father, an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice and peace." Such sentiments and ideals drawn out of Scripture when counter-proposed for the here were hardly countenanced by the likes of Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin.

Pope Pius XI, a single-minded man endowed with a direct laconic expression, purposefully exposed such ideological errors now accepted by or usually imposed on-millions in Russia, Germany, Italy and other areas. In swift succession he first attacked National Socialism and its policy of eugenics, euthanasia and 'master race' vagaries on 14 March 1937. Five days later he took on atheistic communism with his letter, *Divini Redemptoris* with similar style. In 1938 he put himself in more immediate danger when he challenged and condemned Mussolini's own fascist regime now flirting with Hitler's racial doctrines. Toward the end of the year (1938), this tireless pope, while preparing a letter condemning anti-semitism, fell mysteriously ill, and died finally on 10 February 1939 in great pain.

For such prophetic figures as Pius XI, Jesus is *Lord*, who exercises *dominion: for his are the ages* despite the postures of temporary politics. Today's reading from Luke's gospel is both a lesson in God's merciful forgiveness and His claim to *universal* dominion. At the very end of his life the thief though roundly mocked by his criminal companion recognizes however vaguely, not only the means of salvation but its very attainment through faith in Jesus. He pleads and was given the assurance of paradise in this the very "first act of canonization." Does Christ's kingship provoke me to such an open profession of trust? Can I trust myself to Christ who has already experienced the brutal reality of human evil and death itself?

The earliest Christians identified Jesus with the predicted Messiah of the Jews. The Jewish word "messiah," and the Greek word "Christ," both mean "anointed one," and came to refer to the expected king who would deliver Israel from the hands of the Romans. Christians believe that Jesus is this expected Messiah. Unlike the messiah most Jews expected, Jesus came to free all people, Jew and Gentile, and he did not come to free them from the Romans, but from sin and death. Thus the king of the Jews, and of the cosmos, does not rule over a kingdom of this world.

Christians have long celebrated Jesus as Christ, and his reign as King is celebrated to some degree in [Advent](#) (when Christians wait for his second coming in glory), [Christmas](#) (when "born this day is the King of the Jews"), [Holy Week](#) (when Christ is the Crucified King), [Easter](#) (when Jesus is resurrected in power and glory), and the [Ascension](#) (when Jesus returns to the glory he had with the Father before the world was created). However, Pius XI wanted to specifically commemorate Christ as king, and instituted the feast in the Western calendar in 1925.

In the 21st century many Western Christians, Catholic and Protestant, celebrate Christ the King Sunday, including Anglicans and Lutherans. Unfortunately, in some mainline Protestant churches, "king" language is not popular, and the feast is downplayed. However, in a chaotic and unjust world that seems to scorn any kind of authority, many Christians proudly celebrate Christ the King Sunday, where the loving and merciful - and just - king of the universe is praised and glorified.

## Activities

\*If you would like to receive a copy of the **bulletin** by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

\* If you would like to serve as a lector or Eucharistic minister at the Sunday mass please contact Ann at [dalyaann@hotmail.com](mailto:dalyaann@hotmail.com).

Training will be provided for those who have not previously served in these ministries.

\* **Bible Study** takes place every Tuesday from 18:30-19:30 in Tagaste room.

\*Every Saturday Morning from 0900 to 1000, St. Thomas Church in Malastrana is collecting clothes for the **homeless** in Prague. Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Also, at this time, soup and bread is provided to the homeless before they go to receive clothing items that are presorted and distributed by volunteers. Besides clothes, the homeless may also benefit from Winter shoes, blankets, sleeping bags and general camping gear. Anyone wishing to know more can contact Father Juan

\*St Thomas' English Speaking Community now has a presence on **facebook**. Please 'like' our page and if you want to get more involved with the community, join our group!

\***Parishioner's Prayer Intentions:** The English Community will now post prayer requests on the bulletin board designated for their use in the walkway. Anyone who would like prayers said is invited to post their needs and Father William will pray for these intentions throughout the week. You needn't identify yourself; your request is sufficient. For those who've had prayers answered we will also have a praise section.

\* **Marriage preparation** course will take place Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 09:15 am with lunch break and will conclude at 3:00pm.

## **St. Thomas Parish Dinner of Thanks**

### **Where:**

Archbishops Palace  
Hradcanske namesti 16  
Prague 1

### **When:**

Friday November 28th

**Time:** 18:30

**Tickets (tickets no longer available!!).** For more information contact Michael Rainey.

## **5th IWAP Christmas Market**

The International Women's Association of Prague will hold its Christmas Market from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, 6th December 2014 at the InterContinental Hotel, Prague

This is IWAP's main charity fundraising event, which this year supports two local charities, Kolpingův dům and Projekt Šance o.s

We are looking forward to over 40 vendors with unique Christmas gifts, delicious baked goods, live music and amazing raffle prizes.

Admission is 20 Kč on the door; there is no charge for children and we have a Kid's Corner with an all day program of children's activities.

## **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.

We need some families to host young people. If you want to help, please contact Fr. Antonio. [antoniorivas@augustiniani.cz](mailto:antoniorivas@augustiniani.cz)

