



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

**A PRAYER FOR THE
CONSECRATION OF OUR
FAMILY.**

O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, you desire to reign in Christian families, today, as we are about to begin a new year, we wish to proclaim your most complete dominion over our family and parish community. We would live in the future with your life; we want those virtues to which you have promised peace to flourish in our midst; banish the spirit of evil from among us and reign over our hearts with that love which we will keep alive by the frequent reception of the Eucharist.



December 26th and 27th, 2015

The Holy Family Sunday

St. Thomas Church

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**The Reflection of the
Gospel**

O divine heart, we ask you to preside over our meetings; bless our undertakings both spiritual and temporal; dispel our cares; sanctify our joys and alleviate our sufferings. If ever one of us should have the misfortune to afflict you by our indifference, remind us, O merciful Jesus, that you are good and kind to the repentant. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning in to our midst, we will, both those who go and those who stay, be submissive to your will. We will console ourselves with the thought that a day will come when our entire family, reunited in heaven, can sing forever your glory and mercy.

Most holy Mary, Mother of good counsel and consolation, Saint Joseph, patron of fathers and husbands and those charged with authority, as well as all of our heavenly patrons whose names we had received in baptism, present this our consecration.

Study of the first reading

FIRST READING: Jesus, son of Sirach wrote his wisdom treatise (also known as "Ecclesiasticus" or "Book of the Church") as a text book to train young men entering the bureaucracy in Jerusalem. Authored prior to the Maccabean revolt against the Syrians in 180 B.C., the book contained praises for wisdom and advice for the moral life, especially interpersonal and family relationships. These verses addressed the duty a son owed his parents. Notice the verses expound upon the Fourth Commandment. A brief reflection on the list of the commandments revealed the esteem placed upon the extended family as the pillar of society. Honoring one's parents was the most important of the commandments that addressed human affairs (more important than murder, theft, adultery, and bearing false witness). Sirach seemed to state that honoring parents was a sign of righteousness. It

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

(Married couples please stand and join hands)

You have come here freely to this Church that the Lord may once more seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this assembled community. Christ abundantly blesses your love and will continue to do so. So, I ask you once more to renew your marriage vows.

Please join hands and repeat after me:

I, ----, take you, ----, for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

I, ----, take you, ----, for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

The priest then says:

You have declared your consent before this community. May the Lord God in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you with his blessings. What God has joined together let no one divide.

The blessing of ring(s):

Lord, we bless these rings which we bless + in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do your will and live together in peace, good will and fidelity. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Respon se: 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 if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at wfaix@yahoo.com

Announcements and Ongoing Activities

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

* Every Saturday at 9:00am **feeding of the homeless**, as a social service

*We welcome all our new parishoners 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.

The Christmas Schedule 2015:

December 26

St. Stephen *Boxing Day* 06:00 pm
Traditional Blessing of Grain.

December 27

Holy Family Day 11:00 am

December 31

New Year's eve 06:00pm/18:00

January 01

New Year's Day +2016 11:00 am

Blessing

Once again I want on behalf of Fr. Juan, Fr. Antonio, Fr. Jozef, the President and the Parish Council, the various committees our sincerest best wishes and blessings of God on you, our benefactors during this coming year. God be with you and your families.

Fr. William S. Faix, OSA, Pastor

January 01. *Solemnity of Mary the Mother of Jesus Christ.* This day is also set aside as "the Day for World Peace"

January 02. *Basil the Great (+379) and Gregory of Nazianzen (+389), bishops and writers who stamped their influence on the Church's teachings and devotional life over the centuries.*

Year of Mercy

"Merciful like the Father"

Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill,
7. pray for the living and the dead."

A PRAYER CONSECRATING OUR FAMILY TO THE LORD

O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, you desire to reign in Christian families, today we wish to proclaim your most complete dominion over our family and parish community. We would live in the future with your life, we want those virtues to which you have promised peace to flourish in our midst; banish evil from among us and rule over our hearts with that love which we shall keep alive by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

O divine heart, we ask to preside over our meetings; bless our undertakings both spiritual and temporal; dispel our cares; sanctify our joys and alleviate our sufferings. If ever one or the other of us should have the misfortune to afflict you by our indifference, remind us, O merciful Jesus, that you are good and kind to the repentant. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning in our midst, we will, both those who go and those who remain, be submissive to your will. We will console ourselves with the thought that the day will come when our entire family, reunited in heaven can sing forever your glory and your mercy.

Most holy Mary, Mother of good counsel and consolation, Saint Joseph, patron of fathers and teachers, as well as all our heavenly patrons whose names we have received in baptism, present this our consecration to our most holy Redeemer and may it always be present in our hearts. Glory be to the Father and to Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen