



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

### Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, as I call on you today I realise that I often come asking for favours.  
Today I'd like just to be in your presence.  
Let my heart respond to Your Love.



April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

The sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

# St. Thomas Church

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Today's gospel reading from St. John is situated within the atmosphere of the last day of Jesus' ministry. With the dark hour of his arrest and trial now imminent, the disciples apprehensively ponder their teacher's enigmatic words. John's gospel written around the year 90 or some 60 years after the events related was directed to a community facing two wrenching problems. The *first problem* was concerned with the deaths of those eyewitnesses "to all Jesus said and done". While these early followers lived the Christian community always had some available assurance or standard for gauging true teaching through their direct guidance. The *second problem* was even more bothersome. Many members of the early Church community convinced of the imminent return (*parousia*) of the Lord, grew impatiently restive with his seeming delay; some even fell away in profound disappointment. John's gospel served, therefore, as a book of encouragement for these doubtful so weak in faith. Jesus in anticipation responds to such issues- still timely- with a double pledge. First, he promises **each and every disciple** his gift of *peace*. Our English word "*peace*" (meaning "the absence of war or disorder") is a standard but partially inaccurate translation of the Hebrew *shalom*. In Hebrew this word "signifies such things as to finish, to complete, to pay... most precisely a condition in which nothing is lacking" wrote J. L. McKenzie. Second, Jesus promises **to send the Paraclete or Guide** who will bring to mind all that he taught and said. In fact, this Paraclete was and is to be sent (just as Jesus was sent) from the Father and will remain within the disciples to guide them just as Jesus did during his ministry. Therefore, there will be no further need of "eyewitnesses" nor should the community be anxious over the time of the Lord's imminent return. The Holy Spirit will be with the community making it possible for each one to possess that blessed assurance of peace through his constant presence. Do we really appreciate this great promise?

## May 1

### St. Joseph the Worker

Apparently in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955. But the relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers has a much longer history.

In a constantly necessary effort to keep Jesus from being removed from ordinary human life, the Church has from the beginning proudly emphasized that Jesus was a carpenter, obviously trained by Joseph in both the satisfactions and the drudgery of that vocation. Humanity is like God not only in thinking and loving, but also in creating. Whether we make a table or a cathedral, we are called to bear fruit with our hands and mind, ultimately for the building up of the Body of Christ.

"The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it" (Genesis 2:15). The Father created all and asked humanity to continue the work of creation. We find our dignity in our work, in raising a family, in participating in the life of the Father's creation. Joseph the Worker was able to help participate in the deepest mystery of creation. Pius XII emphasized this when he said, "The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work. Thus, if you wish to be close to Christ, we again today repeat, 'Go to Joseph'" (see Genesis 41:44).

## Fr. William birthday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

### **SIGN-UP SHEET LINK & NOTE:**

<http://fatherbill80.com/>

We are planning a big BBQ party in the cloister garden to celebrate Father William's 80th birthday on 8 May 2016. Please use the above registration and forward to everyone so we can get an accurate attendance to better plan for the party (Sunday 8th May). Note we would like to ask that you bring a side dish/salad/desert (serving for 10+) & you will see that in the registration form there is a box for people to "click" if they want to bring food which we'll follow-up with for those that express interest to do so. Let's make this a memorable 80th Birthday Celebration for Father !!!!

**Bakesale for a Cause:** Please join us in the Refectory directly after Mass on May 1st for the annual bakesale held by our First Communion class! We've got delicious goodies at great prices (coffee and conversation for free, of course): this year we're supporting 3 immigrants students at St. Augustine School in need of financial support for their clothing, books, and school supplies.

### Ongoing Activities

\*We **welcome all our new parishioners** 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.

\***Bible Study** sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

\***Parish dance** will be on Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Malostranská Beseda from 07:pm. Ticket you can buy with Michael Rainey. Please come with us to celebrate!

***CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN.***

**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."

\***The 19th Annual Marian Pilgrimage** to the Shrine of the **Gracious Madonna**, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zajecov, will be held on May 7. We meet in front of St. Joseph's church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, May 7. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism. SIGN UP: In the sacristy of St. Thomas Church.