



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



October 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2016

The Thirtieth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time – Year C

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

# St. Thomas Church

## GOSPEL STUDY

*Comparisons can be odious. In this parable or short story with a moral ending, two figures are presented: a pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisees were the religious authorities in Jesus' day. Characterized by their adherence to a literal interpretation of the Law, they were noted for their ascetical practices that went beyond religious obligations. Jews were required to fast but once a year on Yom Kippur the Pharisees, however, fasted twice a week on Monday and Thursday. Tithing or a self-imposed tax on everything one owned became for the Pharisees a point of pride. The tax collector or publican, on the other hand, was regarded as beyond the pale of salvation if he did not restore what he had stolen plus one fifth in compensation to all whom he had defrauded. Once he did this, he then would be required to change his occupation as proof of his conversion. Such a turn about, however, was regarded as highly unlikely and the tax collector remained in his sin before God. But, Jesus taught differently. Noting the arrogant attitude of the Pharisee's prayer, Jesus commends the humble confession of the tax collector that would have come as a surprise to his listeners. After all, the pharisee for all his pretensions had fulfilled the Law. But, what Jesus teaches here is that it is not through our efforts that we obtain divine pardon, rather it is precisely through a humble recognition of weakness and failure that we encounter God's loving compassion. Jesus ends this parable with the telling words that "the tax collector went home justified." How do we approach God?*

Please contact, Fr. William Faix, OSA if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "[wfaix@yahoo.com](mailto:wfaix@yahoo.com)" or contact Fr. Juan at "[juan@augustiniani.cz](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)" Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

## St. John Stone, O.S.A.

25<sup>th</sup> October

Nothing whatsoever is known of John's early life, education, or activities in the Order, though it is conjectured that he joined the Augustinians at Canterbury since this is the place of his death. His story then, is essentially that of his martyrdom.

On 3 November 1534 the English Parliament issued the Act of Supremacy, declaring Henry VIII supreme head of the Church in England. In December 1538, Richard Ingworth, a former Dominican and the official emissary of Thomas Cromwell, appeared at Canterbury to close the houses of the mendicant friars there and obtain the written assent of each community's members to the above-mentioned Act. The friaries of the Franciscans and Dominicans were surrendered without difficulty. When, on 14 December, Richard appeared at the monastery of the Austin Friars, John alone among his brothers refused to sign, and spoke in clear terms of his objections to the king's claims over the Church. John was immediately separated from his confreres in order to forestall his influence over them and was urged eventually with threats to alter his position. When he persisted in his refusal he was brought to London so that Cromwell himself might pressure him to change his view. He was imprisoned for a year in the tower of London where he remained adamant. It was while here that John had a religious experience which was recorded by the Catholic apologist and biographer, Nicholas Harpsfield:

*"John Stone was invested with the crown of martyrdom at Canterbury. But before that, having poured forth prayers in prison to God and having fasted continuously for three days, he heard a voice, though he saw no one, which addressed him by name and bade him to be of good heart and not to hesitate to suffer death with constancy for the belief which he had professed. From this afterwards he gained such eagerness and strength as never to allow himself by persuasion or terror to be drawn from his purpose. These facts I learned from a sober and trustworthy man who is still living, to whom Stone himself revealed them."*

On October 1539, John was sent to be tried at Canterbury. The sentence was handed down on 6 December and within several weeks, probably two days after Christmas, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered at a place called the Dungeon, now known as Dane John. Because he was a traitor to the king, his head and his quartered body were exhibited at the city gates.

John Stone was beatified on 9 December 1886 by Leo XIII and was canonized, along with thirty-nine other English martyrs of the Reformation, by Paul VI on 25 December 1970.

## FEASTS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

### October

- 22 According to **James Usher**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century exegete, God created the world this day in 4004 BC at 6pm!
- 23 **John Capistran**, OFM (+1456) was a preeminent preacher later proclaimed patron of military chaplains. His statue stands on a corner in Old Town square.  
-Hungary celebrates independence day (1956).  
-Boethius (+525), the last of the classic philosophers and teacher of the Middle Ages, was executed.
- 24 **Anthony Maria Claret** (+1870), the archbishop of Havana, Cuba, founded the Claretian congregation of missionaries.  
-United Nations Charter Day is observed (1954).  
-The *Treaty of Westphalia* was signed in 1648 and the final third Partition of Poland took place in 1795.
- 25 **John Stone**, OSA (+1539, this Austin friar, for refusing to acknowledge Henry VIII's spiritual claims, was hung, drawn and quartered in Canterbury.  
-In 1415 the battle of Agincourt was fought on "St. Crispin's day" and Pablo Picasso was born in 1881.
- 26 Austria celebrates *National Day* (1955).
- 27 **Frumentius** (+360), a Christian merchant who after visiting Ethiopia decided to remain and preach the Christian faith which he did with remarkable success. Ethiopia became and has remained one of the first Christian nations on the African continent.
- 28 The Czech Republic celebrates its independence (1918). Free say in the Czech Republic.

**Thanksgiving day** is fast approaching. If you would like to participate in this parish event in which we can all sit down and break bread together, please ask Michael Rainey for details.

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St. Thomas Church celebrated its **7th Parishoners Day on Sunday** October 16th, 2016. This was an opportunity to meet fellow parishoners, our Priests, Parish Council members and to learn more about "What's Happening" and how to get involved. Thank to everybody for the presence and help!

## 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.
- ❖ If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz).
- ❖ **Lectors and Eucharistic ministers:** If you would like to be a **lector** or Eucharistic minister at mass on Sundays please contact Ann at [dalyaann@hotmail.com](mailto:dalyaann@hotmail.com)  
A new schedule will be prepared soon.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ Wednesday at 18:30. Tagaste room takes place **Adult Religious education**.
- ❖ The **choir** is looking for new members. If you like to sing, we'd like to have you join us! Please contact Frank Jicha at [frankjicha1@gmail.com](mailto:frankjicha1@gmail.com) for more information.
- ❖ **Today second collection** for the missions
- ❖ On November 19th **Marriage Preparation** form 09:30 am till 03:15 pm.

## 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."