



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

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 19th
and November 20th 2016

The Thirty Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time – Year C

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

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.

**PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being
enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in
created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that
you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
"If you knew the gift of God!"
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness
and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen
and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in
weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance
and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and
forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its
anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the

Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good
news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of
Mary, Mother of
Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

The year will officially end on Nov. 20, the
Solemnity of Christ the King, when Pope Francis
will close the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. It
was opened on Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception.

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."

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.

❖ **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.

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.**

❖ Next week we begin **Advent** by blessing the *Advent wreath* and the *Jesse Tree* with the active participation of our children.

❖ **Song books/Missals.** On several Sunday's we have been short of song books for the congregation. A recent inventory showed that many books were unaccounted for. If you have one of the song books at home could you please bring it in when you are next at St. Tomas.

❖

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25th is approaching, please see Mr. Michael Rainey for details.

FEASTS and Other ANNIVERSARIES: November

22 **Cecilia (3rd), the patroness of musicians and singers, was a noble Roman lady, executed for her profession of the faith.**

-John F. Kennedy, the President of the USA, was murdered in 1963.

-Wassily Kandinsky, the abstract artist, was born in Moscow, 1866.

-*Thanksgiving Day is observed in the United States.*

23 **Clement I (+101)**, regarded as the fourth pope, died; Columban of Bobbio (+615), an Irish missionary and monastic founder, died; Miguel Pro, SJ (+1927), was a priest executed for his faith in Mexico during the great persecutions.

25 **Catherine of Alexandria (+305)**, was a young woman known for her beauty, wealth and learning. Shunning marriage proposals from a rather persistent young man, she was accused and executed for her faith. St. Catherine was proclaimed the patroness of students and railroad workers since in life she successfully routed the wise of this world. It is said that her executioners tried to break her faith on a spiked wheel.

-Lebanese Independence day.

26. **Isabella of Castille (+1504)** supported Christopher Columbus in his transoceanic venture.

27. **Our Lady "of the Miraculous Medal"** devotion to Our Lady under this title began in Paris, 1830.