



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

Today's Prayer

**We must never say that it is
no use for them to live
chastely in the married state,
to direct their houses and
families in a Christian way,
or to heap up for themselves
heavenly treasures by their
acts of mercy.**

February 18th and 19th 2017

The Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time – Year A

St. Thomas Church

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GOSPEL REFLEXION

Love Your Enemies

How hard is it to respect people that you detest?

Face it. We don't like everyone we meet and many people don't like us. It's the way of the world. But, as Christians, we are called to a higher code of conduct. While we have hurt or broken relationships, even people have to "love" from a distance, how we treat them speaks volumes about our faith and our character. The trick for these distant people is to keep the door of reconciliation open. Maybe, someday, there will be forgiveness and healing. If we cannot give these people friendship, at least we can pray for them. If we must keep our distance for our own mental health, at least we can hope for a change of heart.

In today Gospel, Jesus spoke of Christian justice, not the justice of retribution, but the justice of the Kingdom. Not an "eye for an eye" but a way to show others the path to God. He shows us the way to love.

STUDY OF THE SECOND READING

Where can we find God in our lives? In solitary prayer? At Church on Sunday? In nature? In these few verses from 1 Corinthians, St. Paul tried to answer that question in the context of the Corinthian assembly. The community at Corinth was torn apart by petty squabbles and turf fights among groups vying for spiritual leadership. Many of these groups appealed to apostolic roots (3:21; also see 3:1-4), but local leaders may have sought personal power, even to the point of building a cult of personality. In any event, the local Church was in disarray. By implicitly asking the question of God's presence in life, St. Paul strove to refocus the Corinthians on what was really important in life: God.

As the note above stated, St. Paul used an analogy for the Temple that had some cache among Jews. The community was the Temple, for the presence of the divine dwelt in the Temple. That was the function of any temple, a home for the god worshiped and a place for the worshiper to encounter the god. With the presence of the Spirit in the gathered community, St. Paul could make a good case for the analogy. God is found where Christians gather as Church in order to worship the Lord.

Where do you find God? How can you find him with fellow Christians? How can you encounter him at Mass?

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

Announcements and 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**.
- **Song books/Missals.** On several Sunday's we have been short of song books for the congregation. If you have one of the song books at home could you please bring it in when you are next at St. Tomas.
- **Fr. William** will be away on Order affairs in USA beginning 23th January to the end of February.

Commandments of the Church

The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), in its Compendium, enumerates the following five:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and remain free from work or activity that could impede the sanctification of such days.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Saint Augustine Quotes About love enemies

- When [men] go to war, what they want is to impose on their enemies the victor's will and call it peace.
- You don't love in your enemies what they are, but what you would have them become by your prayers.
- Love all men, even your enemies; love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother.
- That your enemies have been created is God's doing; that they hate you and wish to ruin you is their own doing. What should you say about them in your mind? "Lord be merciful to them, forgive them their sins, put the fear of God in them, change them!" You are loving in them not what they are, but what you would have them to become.
- The wounds of a friend are better than the kisses of an enemy. To love with sternness is better than to deceive with gentleness.... In Luke [14:23] it is written: "Compel people to come in!" By threats of the wrath of God, the Father draws souls to his Son.

What is perfection in love? Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... For so did He love, Who hanging on the Cross, said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

- Imagine the vanity of thinking that your enemy can do you more damage than your enmity.
- Let necessity, and not your will, slay the enemy who fights against you.
- You have enemies. For who can live on this earth without them? Take heed to yourselves: love them. In no way can your enemy so hurt you by his violence, as you hurt yourself if you love him not.
- Though there are very many nations all over the earth, ...there are no more than two kinds of human society, which we may justly call two cities, ...one consisting of those who live according to man, the other of those who live according to GodTo the City of Man belong the enemies of God, ...so inflamed with hatred against the City of God.