



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

St. Thomas Church

Today's Prayer

Christians must always live in this way, without any wish to come down from their cross--otherwise they will sink beneath the world's mire. But if we have to do so all our lives, we must make an even greater effort during the days of Lent. It is not a simple matter of living through forty days. Lent is the epitome of our whole life.

March 11th and 12th 2017

The Second Sunday of
Lent – Year A

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

THE SECOND LENTEN SUNDAY-A

The story of Abraham, “the father of our faith” in the first reading and the “transfiguration” of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew are profound narratives worthy of reflection. The life of Abraham as related in Genesis 12-25 tells the unadorned story of an all too human nomad who, when mysteriously called by God, responds in total submission and leaves not only his native land but even the worship of his tribal gods. The reward of this simple man’s faith, in turn, became the corner stone of all Judeo-Christian and Islamic belief with over two billion adherents regarding him simply as “our father” or “first believer.” The so-named *transfiguration* of Jesus represents another aspect of our faith. But, there is much discussion as to what this mysterious event was and meant. Peter, James and John, those three disciples closest to Jesus, undoubtedly had some visionary experience of which with the exception of a letter dubiously attributed to the Apostle Peter (2 Peter 2: 17-18)- they never wrote. The three *synoptic gospels* Mark, Matthew and Luke do mention this *transfiguration* which some early writers date as a post-Resurrection apparition. The majority of scriptural scholars, however, would assign it squarely within the latter period of Jesus’ ministry. Notice the events. First, Jesus takes his disciples aside and “goes up the mountain” where enveloped in a cloud he is acclaimed in the company of Moses and Elijah: “My beloved Son... Listen to him.” (Matthew 17:1-8). Matthew uses the imagery of the Old or First Testament to describe the event. Moses, the lawgiver of his people spoke with God on Sinai which was enveloped in the *shekinah* or “cloud of divine presence” while the people looked on in reverence and fear. Both readings dealing with Abraham’s faith and God’s affirmation of Jesus ministry give us pause to think. As we journey on to Easter do we go with faith, that is, with total confidence in God’s plan for us? Do we take the work and words of Jesus so seriously that we can live in confidence of divine mercy and the hope of the resurrection?

Entrance hymn

Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan didst contend,
And did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By your most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passiontide,
For evermore in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that when this life
Of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

Lenten Services

-**Wednesdays.** Bible studies from 06:30 7:30 pm. An opportunity to explore the Word of God.

-**Thursdays.** Mass will be offer at 06:005 pm in St Barbara’s Chapel. Confession will be heard before and after Mass.

- **Fridays.** Stations of the Cross at 06:00 pm. Follow by devotions to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine. Confession will be heard immediately afterwards.

- **Saturdays.** Mass at 06:00pm follow by Confessions.

* *Please note:* Confessions will also be heard upon request at anytime



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CLEARING THE CLUTTER
OUT OF MY WORK LIFE
*Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:2-10; Lk
9:28-36* Peter's reaction to
seeing Jesus transfigured
was to do something, build
something. But God tells
him and us, "This is my
son. Listen to him." In a

culture where what we do is valued above who we are, listening to God is sadly neglected. This week, I will pray about the "clutter" of excess doing; about busy-ness, stress, and workaholism. Do I trust God with my work? Do I see myself as loved and valuable for who I am, not what I do?

MONDAY: BLESSINGS—OVERFLOWING, POURED INTO MY LAP

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38 Jesus promises blessings beyond belief when I give. To whom do I give my time and energy? Is it to career, work and chores? Is there anything left for God or people? Should I reorder my priorities?

TUESDAY: HEAVY BURDENS, HARD TO BEAR

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12 Is there anyone in my life who has laid a heavy burden on my shoulders? Jesus promised that his yoke is easy and his burden light (Matthew 11:30). Are my burdens God's will or the result of human selfishness?

WEDNESDAY: WANTING THE PLACE OF HONOR

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28 Jesus told James and John that the greatest in the Kingdom is the humble servant. How much of my busy-ness is designed to gain a "place of honor"? Do I need to revise my thinking in this area?

THURSDAY: LIKE TREES PLANTED BY WATER

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31 What a wonderful image—a tree planted by a running stream, always nourished, never in fear of drought. It is possible to live such a life by reading God's word and praying often throughout the day. I, too, can be refreshed and fearless, no matter what happens.

FRIDAY: PRODUCING THE FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 The Kingdom will be given to those who produce the "fruits of the Kingdom." What kind of "fruit" is my life producing? The lasting fruit of the Kingdom, or things that will not last beyond earthly life?

SATURDAY: GOD'S ARMS ARE OPEN WIDE

Mt 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 This parable could be called the parable of the faithful father. If I have realized this week that work and busy-ness are replacing my relationship with God, it's time to come home to my Father.

Lent 2017

**Project : Elementary and Secondary Education
Assistance to Children of Poor Families in the Parish
of Saint-Augustine of Poko.**

The following project plans to help children 18 years and younger who belong to poor families within our own parish. The project hopes to ensure that these children have access to a basic education program.

This project is part of an effort to mobilize resources towards the creation of a youth ministry program. The program would encourage parents to create a Christian environment within their families and help establish a Christian leadership group with a social development focus.

Overall yearly cost: 2000 EUROS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

General Objective

Ensure the yearly education of 10 school-aged children that belong to impoverished Christian families from Saint-Augustine Parish in Poko. See more at www.augustiniani.cz/en

Ongoing Activities

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

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.**

Marriage Preparation: The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 18th March from 9:15am - 3pm for those who wish to participate.

On Sunday March 19th we will celebrate **St. Patrick's day** with a Mass at 12:30 in St. Thomas Church.

4 leaders needed for an English summer camp from July 9. - 22. More information see Fr. Juan or ask at juan@augustiniani.cz