



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

Today's Prayer

Say this prayer today

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.



October 28th - 29th 2017

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30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Thomas Church

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Reflection on the Gospel

In the past, this Sunday because of the gospel reading was referred to as "the Sunday of the greatest commandments". Once again we meet Jesus pitted in debate with the legalistic *Scribes*, or religious lawyers whose duty was to interpret scripture. The Old or First Testament was the area of study and debate. It now appears that the religious lawyers had discovered *613 commandments* divided by importance into *light* and *strict*. Further, these same commandments were divided into *248 positive* ("you will") and *365 negative* ("you will not"). The average believing Jew was thus confronted with a daunting task: how could one *always* be sure of what is light and strict? How can one avoid the sin of mistaking a "positive" for a "negative" injunction? And, when so bound, what required sacrifices, ritual cleansing and prayers are to be offered? The only "sure way" or *halachah* ('the rule of right conduct') was provided by eminent *rabbis* or teachers who "summed up the Law" as a guide to the perplexed and scrupulous. Rabbi Hillel, a contemporary of Jesus and one of the greatest teachers of Israel, once said: "if one does not learn the *Torah* one is guilty of suicide". His other adage "What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor; that is the *whole Torah* (the Law). Go and learn it" parallels the advice given in *Tobit* 4:15 and Jesus' own words (known as "the *Golden Rule*" in *Matthew* 7:12). But the revolutionary context of Jesus' statement is his combining two *positive* laws: *you shall love the Lord your God* (*Deuteronomy* 6:5) and *you shall love your neighbor as yourself* (*Leviticus* 19:18). This deceptively simple *command of love* soon became for the Jewish Christians and their converts the identifying characteristic of their faith. So much so that even in our own day when unpracticed it becomes a biting indictment of Christian hypocrisy. Could anything be more simple or demanding than loving one another? Let us examine ourselves in honest light: are we truly witnesses to Christ and his love in our respect and love for each other? This love grows first in our own hearts and spreads to others as an image and likeness of God himself.

Study of Today's Readings

FIRST READING: These verses are part of the Covenant Code. In the Exodus narrative, God declared his Law to his people through Moses at Mount Sinai. The code regulated both worship and social behavior. The laws on behavior tried to ensure both loyalty to the nation and equitable treatment for the weak in society. In ancient times, patriotism and religious practice were so intertwined that rules governing such behavior could be called "religious nationalism." Hence, the worship of idols was akin to treason among the Israelites, and was punished accordingly. Warnings against abuse of widows and orphans also carried heavy weight. These were the weakest members of the nation, for they were homeless in a social system based upon extended families. It would be easy to take advantage of them. But the caveat of divine judgment tried to check such behavior. The shame of such acts would carry on to one's descendants. For God Himself would punish this crime by making wives widows and children orphans. Exodus painted love of God and love of neighbor in stark terms.

SECOND READING: Last week, Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians began with a blessing and praise. The community at Thessalonika had adopted the faith against great opposition. In contrast to the internal strife in the Corinthian assembly, this church had a *cohesive faith with a sense of unity and purpose*. The

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

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin

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 serve as a lector or Eucharistic minister at the Sunday mass please contact Ann at dalyaann@hotmail.com

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 or 602.441.201 for more information.

Every Saturday at 9:00am **feeding of the homeless**, as social service.

Bible Study sessions are held each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in Tagaste room. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

Religious education for adults sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:00pm/18:00 in Tagaste room.

Please join us as we **pray the Rosary** the first Saturday of each month! We'll gather at 17:30 in the main church, to pray before English Mass begins at 18:00. Please contact Petra Nykodym at +420 602 223 602 with questions.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday at 19:30 in St. Barbara's Chapel.

During all the Sundays **Masses in November** we are going to pray for our death people. Please write theirs in a list in the entrance of the Church

Remember our Parish Dinner **-Thanksgiving Dinner**, which is scheduled for Saturday November 25th at 19:00/07:00 pm, at Augustine Hotel. Please see Michael Rainey for tickets and details.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS on November 2nd Mass at 06:00 pm in St Barbara's' Chapel

Upcoming Events

28. *Simon and Jude* (the first century), listed among the twelve apostles, are traditionally referred to as Simon the Zealot since he probably belonged to a type of anti-Roman "liberation army" and Jude, "the cousin of the Lord" because of his relationship to Jesus. Simon is said to have died in Edessa, Syria. Jude, also called Thaddeus, has become since the 18th century the patron of hopeless cases. He is said to have suffered martyrdom in Persia (present day Iran). Traditionally it rains on Sts. Simon and Jude's day.
-On this day in 1918 the Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed.
29. *Peter of Gubbio* (+1306), an Augustinian friar, was a popular preacher in the *trecento*.
-Today in 1923 Turkey officially became a Republic and in 1929 the Stock Market crashed.
30. *Thoger* (+1065), a priest and missionary, who for his preaching and organization is called the "Apostle of Iceland".
31. -The Vigil of All Hallows ("All Saints") has come down to us *Hallowe'en* from certain pre-Christian Irish customs commemorating the beginning of winter when "the spirits walk".
-*Reformationfest* or Reformationday recalling Martin Luther's symbolic nailing of the 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church door in 1517- an event-ultimately leading to the fracturing of Christian unity.

November

01. THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS celebrates all those servants of the Lord who faithfully followed in the way of peace, love and justice. Our community will celebrate this solemnity on Sunday, November 05.
02. COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS, *el dia de los Muertos*, on this day since the year 998 the souls of all our faithful are especially remembered.
03. *Martin de Porres*, OP (+1639), an illegitimate child of racially mixed parentage, who spent his life in service to the poor and abandoned in Peru.
-*Hubert* (+727), a nobleman once converted, who became bishop of Liege and the light of his age. He is honored as the patron of hunters and foresters.
-*Malachy of Armagh* (+1148), an archbishop, labored incessantly for reform in his native Ireland. Famous "prophecies" are attributed to him.
04. *Charles Borromeo* (+1584) distinguished himself as a church reformer.