



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

# St. Thomas Church

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## Today's Prayer

Say this prayer today:

"I stand at the door and knock," says the Lord. What a wonderful privilege that the Lord of all creation desires to come to me. I welcome God's presence.

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November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Solemnity of Christ The King

## Reflection on the Gospel

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 put on the calendar only in 1925, immediately after the ravages of the First World War with the accompanying rise of that triad of competing ideologies of nationalism, national socialism (Nazism) and atheistic communism (Marxism). The pope at the time, Pius XI (from 1922 to 1939), faced with these menaces, was moved to reiterate the kingship of Jesus Christ, who, in the words of today's preface "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." Sentiments and ideals certainly at variance with the programs of the likes of Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin. Pope Pius XI resolutely set out to expose these ideological errors which were being either accepted or ruthlessly imposed on millions in such purportedly "Christian" nations as Russia, Germany and even Italy. In swift succession he first attacked national socialism (Hitler's eugenics, euthanasia and 'master race' vagaries) on 14 March 1937 and five days later he took on atheistic communism with his letter, *Divini Redemptoris*. In 1938 he challenged and condemned Mussolini's fascist regime in Italy when it, too, adopted Hitler's racial doctrines. Toward the end of that same year of 1938, this tireless pope, while in the midst of preparing a letter condemning anti-semitism, fell mysteriously ill, suffered on in great agony and died finally 10 February 1939. For such prophetic figures as Pius XI, Jesus is Lord, and, as such, he exercises dominion: for his are the ages despite the transient opposition. Nowhere in scripture except in today's gospel reading (Matthew 25:34,40) does Jesus refer to himself as king; in fact, he avoided the title for its contemporary political implications (John 6:15). It is only in his passion that he is recognized-albeit in mock reverence- by a pagan governor who taunts the sensitivities of a lynching mob with the title king (John 18:36 et seq.). When Jesus, the Son of Man, the King, returns he will, indeed, judge not so much doctrinal content as conduct. "I assure you," he says "as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters, you did it for me. (Matthew 25:45) What else can you add?

## Study of Today's Readings

**FIRST READING:** "Pride goes before the fall." But after the fall, what happens next? This was the question Ezekiel tried to answer for his contemporaries taken into captive exile. As the son of a priest, Ezekiel was taken into exile by the Babylonians. Soon after, Ezekiel felt the call to prophesy among his countrymen. Through visions and strange behavior, Ezekiel tried to explain why the Jews were in exile. And he looked ahead to God's salvation. While the Jews lost all because of their sin, they would be gathered together by the power of God. The Lord would bring the Diaspora (communities of Jews spread throughout the world) back to worship in Jerusalem, like a shepherd gathers lost sheep who strayed from the flock [34:11-12]. He would care for the injured. But there would be judgment, for not all the lost would be innocent [34:15-17]. While the exiles felt guilt and remorse for their sin, they needed a counterbalance in hope. We, too, need hope to pull us out of our funk. But we need a firm reason for hope. That reason is God himself.

**SECOND READING:** Despite the simple logic of faith, many in the Corinthian church denied the general resurrection. In fact, the young community was torn apart by in-fighting, cliques, and turf battles. The instruments of choice for these battles were questions of faith, especially the nature and scope of the resurrection. Two issues added to the controversy.

**Next Sunday we begin Advent time, preparation for Christmas. At the Mass on Saturday and Sunday we will bless the Advent wreath. . Please bring to the Church the one you are going to have at home and we will bless during the Mass.**

## CHRIST THE KING

Last Sunday in the liturgical year . Formerly the last Sunday in October

Instituted to give public homage to Christ, the Ruler of the world, by [Pope Pius XI, 1925](#). Every year on this day is renewed the consecration of the world to the [Sacred Heart of Jesus](#).

## CALLING ALL YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS!

If you are interested in joining a group of young Catholic adults to meet monthly for friendly conversation, faith sharing, group outings, and more, please contact Carrie Brown at [carolynbrown402@gmail.com](mailto:carolynbrown402@gmail.com) . Carrie is new to St. Thomas parish and has previous experience leading young Catholic adult groups. If you ever feel alone in your faith as a young adult, this group is for you! "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:12

## HOMELESS

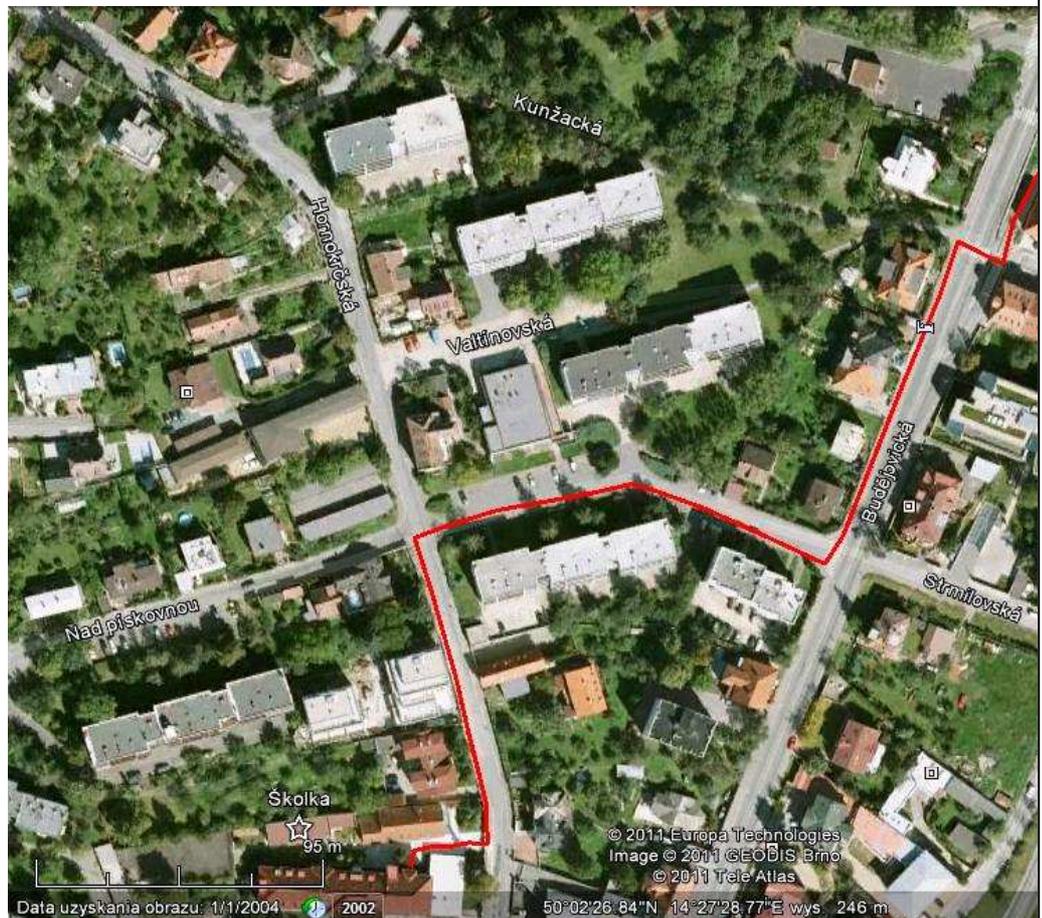
Every Saturday Morning from 0900 to 1000, St. Thomas Church in Malastrana is collecting clothes for the **homeless** in Prague. Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01 Also, at this time, soup and bread is provided to the homeless before they go to receive clothing items that are presorted and distributed by volunteers. Besides clothes, the homeless may also benefit from Winter shoes, blankets, sleeping bags and general camping gear. Anyone wishing to know more can contact Father Juan

## PRAYERS

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.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

\*Remember our Parish Dinner -**Thanksgiving Dinner**, which is scheduled for this Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 18:00/06:00 pm., The dinner will be in St. Augustine School, Hornokrčská 3. Prague 4-Metro Kačerov –C-. and then walking 4 minutes. You can park also in the school parking areas.



## Advent social Project Helping to help!

We received from our brothers in Congo the next information: "During my visit in the north I met two young men who are willing to study. The first is a nurse in Dungu, he would like to study ophthalmology, since sr Jeanne, osa died we have only one old man who is helping in the ophthalmology in Dungu. I think if you can get someone who would like to help that young man to study ophthalmology here in Kinshasa it will be great. I will let you know the total amount of the two years study in few days. The second boy is from Doruma, he has just finish secondary school, he would like to study law because many people do not know their right. He is looking for someone who can help him with 1500\$ for three years study( 500\$ each year) starting if possible this school year".

It a possibility for our community to help someone that is going to help many. More information with Fr. Juan

## SCULPTURE OF JESUS , THE KING

This Sunday at 10:30 will be blessed a sculpture of **Jesus, the King** in the monastery garden. The sculpture is a work of the famous Czech artist Jan Řeřicha. This work has been dedicated to all the people of our community, Augustinians an laic people that died during the times or persecution and wars.