

NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2020

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:
Erica Perk/Bernie Durand/Shirley Kloefer/Dolores
Flood/Josel and Hermie Jandristis,

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday: 5:30pm- Mass at Rectory
Thursday & Friday: 9:00am—Mass at Rectory
Saturday: 4:00pm – Mass at St. Thomas More
2:45 – 3:45 pm - Confession and Rosary
Sunday: 9:00am –Mass at St. Thomas More
8:15-8:45am – Confessions and Rosary
11:00am – Mass at St. Bernadette, Nestleton

PLEASE ORDER YOUR 2021 SUNDAY MISSAL (\$5.00)

Instructions for obtaining your new missal:

To avoid contact to printed materials and many hands
handling it, I would suggest you either send me an email
(office@stthomasmillbrook.ca) or call the rectory (1-705-
400-7888). Please specify your choice of picking up your
missal, either at the Church or at the Rectory.

FR. ANTONIO BAROL MESSAGE FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be always with you.

First of all let me reach out to you and wish you the best of health and please, stay safe as we continue to navigate life in this difficult time of the pandemic. Let us stay positive, vigilant and hopeful that we are now nearing the end of this dark tunnel and with the coming season of Advent, the Messiah will come to bring us the light to eradicate the darkness that covers the earth due to this virus. We know that nothing lasts forever and in every unpleasant situation God has something beautiful in store for us. Let us continue to learn from this pandemic and see where God is leading us for a better tomorrow.

This weekend the Church is asking us to focus on the poor. In 2017 Pope Francis instituted the World Day of the Poor so that "throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need." This is a call that we should reach out to those who are in need especially in this pandemic time and the many victims of calamities all over the world. Those who are poor are our neighbors. Our Lord Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor after loving Him with all our heart and soul, the third is to love oneself. Many times the love of self comes first, therefore what we see in the world are fruits of this selfish love. God's creation – the earth - our common home - is being destroyed by greed through multi-national companies for their gain. Many of our sisters and brothers are suffering as an effect of this global destruction of nature. Often we think of the poor as recipients of our handouts, but we are wrong for they do not like our handouts. Instead they need our help that we stand with them in defense protecting their rights to the land and to their ancestral home. It is also our way of showing our love of God by taking good care of His creation which He entrusted to us as His stewards.

Cont'd....

St. Thomas More Parish offers eGive, Eletronic Giving. Enrollment forms available at the entrance to the Church.

The readings this weekend are indeed related to our response to God's blessings on how we handle the different gifts and blessings He has bestowed upon us. The Book of Proverbs is telling us about the gift of relationship between husband and wife, how it should be nourished with love and trust in each other. A capable wife is far more precious than jewels, the book says "She is considered wise for her lamp does not go out at night and she opens her hand to the poor." In seeking for the right woman, men should look into the inner person and not the appearance for as the book says "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." Congratulations to couples who had reached a milestone in their life together and since your life is a journey keep the light of love burning brightly and put God as the center of your relationship and ask God to keep you together forever.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, continued to encourage the believers to keep awake and be vigilant about the coming of the Lord for it will come like a thief in the night. As adopted children of God we are not in darkness but of the light so let us not fall asleep but to keep awake and be sober. During our baptism and every Easter vigil, we are handed a candle and light them from the Easter Candle for Christ has become our light and it is our hope that in our earthly journey towards eternity we will not walk in darkness but we see the path where Christ showed us when he walked with us on earth, so he invited us all, "Come follow me." At times we might not see the path ahead especially if our eyes are filled with tears from sorrow and pain then that would be a time to listen to the voice of Jesus telling us to believe and trust in Him, who is the way, the truth and the life. We believe in Him because he is truth, we follow Him because he is the way, and we eat His Body and drink His Blood because he is the food that gives eternal life.

The gospel is asking us to be fruitful and use the gifts of God wisely, especially for the good of others so that God will entrust us greater gifts. Each one of us has a share of God's generous gift and it is for us to make this gift useful, not only for us, but also for others, for a gift shared is not lost but increases its value. The famous prayer of St. Francis says, "It is in giving that we receive." It is said that there are four wells in life and at times we are caught up with an addiction that we want to fill it. Some have an addiction to wealth and they are not content with what they have, so they want to fill it and when they are not satisfied they go back to the well of wealth to fill their emptiness; but we know life is never content once the addiction is there. Some have the addiction of pleasure from alcohol, drugs, sex or gambling, and they are never satisfied so they go back many times until they are hooked. Others are addicted to power and they want to remain in power and never give up their position of power and refuse to accept defeat, even when power is vested from the people. Others are also addicted with honour and they do not know how to humble themselves. All things are gifts from God and we are accountable of all the gifts that God has given us and one day He will ask an accounting of everything that we have.

During this pandemic, we are given more time to pray and read the scripture, the lives of the saints, and also to reach out to our loved ones through social media. Let us examine and ask ourselves what we have done most of our time in isolation and social distancing. Time is a very special gift from God which we must never waste because lost time cannot be reclaimed. Let us make our life history a collection of holy moments and not unholy moments. Our desire to see the world change is a desire to see the holy moments outweigh the unholy ones. We just celebrated All Saints day and they are those who received the Seed (Word of God) in their fertile soil, and nourished their faith with prayers, devotions and works of charity. A holy moment is a time when you make yourself completely available to God. The saints were masterful in taking the ordinary everyday events of life turning them into holy moments. Anyone who offers you an easy path in life is to be mistrusted; life is difficult and messy, there is no point trying to mask that or pretend otherwise. But every situation you encounter is in need of one thing, a holy moment.

Remember, pain is a sign that we are alive, problem is a sign that we are strong, prayer is a sign that we are not alone and we believe. Every situation in life is temporary and when life is good, make sure we enjoy and receive it fully, but when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way. Yes, it is almost over and we can make it. We just have to follow health protocols and be concerned about the safety of others and our own.

Next Sunday November 22nd is the feast of Christ the King. Take note that we have a special collection for the "Priest Benefit Fund" to help our retired and sick clergy.

Thank you and may God bless you. Fr. tony

Quote of the week: "Oh my God, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fear of being wounded, to work without seeking rest, and to spend myself without expecting any reward but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will." (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

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