

# NOVEMBER 7 - 8, 2020

## St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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stthomasmillbrook.ca



PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday & Thursday: - 9am – Mass at Rectory  
Friday: 5:00pm- 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

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](mailto: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 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Hello everyone and I continue to hope and pray that you are all in good health and eager to come back to our family Sunday worship, where we are together in giving praise and thanks to our loving and merciful God. It is now over nine months since we had our first lockdown when churches were closed and our Sunday mass was suspended. Starting last June when the numbers of cases were going down, the government allowed the churches to slowly open her doors, ensuring that health protocols of social distancing, mask wearing and other safety measures were being followed. We continue to open even in this time when the numbers are surging again. Thank you for your cooperation and patience and always praying that this pandemic is coming to an end and very soon there will be a vaccine to stop the spread of this virus. We just have to wait patiently and pray fervently to God and ask the intercessions of the saints who some of them have died during pandemic times in the past.

Last weekend we focused our attention on the lives of the saints who had answered the call for holiness and had listened to Christ's teachings on the beatitudes which can be translated to having beautiful attitudes towards life. We call them the Triumphant Church marching with all the heavenly inhabitants praising God forever in heaven, our final destination and our permanent home. We ask for their intercessions for we believe they have a special place in the heart of God. It is my hope and prayer that we all have a favorite saint who we looked up to as our model of faith and we find close that we can ask for anything for his/her intercession. If you have not found one, it is never too late to read the lives of the saints and try to see who among them has touched our heart that we can say we can imitate. Let us remember that they are our heroes of faith and can intercede for our spiritual needs during our earthly journey.

Cont'd over...

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

Let us not forget, the day after we celebrate All Saints Day, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are also given the day to remember "All our Faithful Departed or All Souls Day," This is the day we remember in our prayers the suffering souls in Purgatory, so some will call them as the 'Suffering Church', marching towards participating the brothers and sisters who are triumphantly in heaven. The doctrine of Purgatory is founded in the Old Testament, specifically in the second Book of Maccabees 12:42-45, when the valiant Judas asked that prayers and sin offering be made for those who died, "he had this expiatory sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sins."

The Catholic Church gives the name 'purgatory' to what it calls the after-death purification of "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified." The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the councils of Florence and Trent. It is defined as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." Even though the word Purgatory is not in scripture but there are words that can refer to as a place for purification and a strong belief that those who died with little imperfections have a chance to be purified through prayers and sacrifices from those who remember them. Prayers are not needed by those in heaven and no one can help those in hell. This verse from the Book of Maccabees so clearly illustrates the existence of purgatory that, at the time of the Reformation, the reformists had to cut the books of the Maccabees out of their Bibles in order to avoid accepting the doctrine. Some spiritual writers will call purgatory as the place of God's mercy, for they are not doomed to eternal damnation yet they are not yet worthy in the glory of heaven, so they need to be purified through some sorts of suffering. So the question why we have to suffer is answered by the fact that it is for purification sake. We feel sad to learn that people try to avoid suffering and they would rather die instead of undergoing some sufferings here on earth. Suffering has a purifying effect, so don't be afraid of suffering but instead embrace suffering as a means towards becoming pure and also remember that those who suffer participate in the suffering of Christ. I do remember a pious retired priest, who experienced suffering while waiting for his time of death, and in the nursing home that he was confined, some would complain to him about their pain and suffering, and his usual answer was, "offer that to the souls in purgatory." I think it is good to learn from him, how he took the pain and suffering he endured while waiting for this time to face our loving God and Father.

The readings for this weekend can be addressed to those in the place of purification. Let's say the 5 wise virgins were those worthy of the glory of heaven, and the 5 foolish ones who were not ready for the eternal banquet but still needed some purification of their attitude about preparedness - they were not completely bad but just not ready for the bridegroom. For us the living, of course it is our desire to imitate the five wise virgins always ready for the bridegroom to arrive, for we do not know the day nor the hour of his arrival. Let us make it our mission to tell others about preparedness. It is a growing concern in the world today about the imminent second coming of the Lord and so many cenacle groups are growing in numbers; people group together to pray that the world will be ready for the second coming of the Lord as king and judge of all. Let us then keep our light burning brightly, the light that was given to us during our baptism and told to keep burning brightly until the Lord's coming.

Please, mark this month as a month to remember those who have gone ahead of us. Let us continue to offer prayers, in case they are still in the place of purification, that God will now welcome them into the dwelling He prepared for all His children who remained faithful and true to their covenant of love to Him, to their neighbor, and to themselves. November is also the month that we remember those who fought for our peace and freedom, our heroes who died defending our freedom. On the 11th hour on the 11th day of this 11th month, let us take some moments of silence in prayer that their sacrifices are not in vain but we have benefited from them and so we remember them with grateful hearts. Since we cannot have a physical assembly in front of the cenotaph, we can do some silent prayers at home and maybe plan to pass by the place and offer some prayers too. As I mentioned, our prayer box that contains the names of our beloved departed will remain in the sanctuary when masses are celebrated throughout the month of November.

The Liturgical church calendar Cycle A will soon end during the feast of Christ the King on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first Sunday of Advent which is on November 29<sup>th</sup>, the new liturgical Year B will commence, meaning we need a new Sunday Missal for our readings. This year the missal printing was delayed but they promised that it will come on time. Please follow instructions for ordering and picking up your missal provided in the bulletin. I do encourage you, especially the liturgical Readers, to have a copy. In this time of the pandemic even if you cannot come to church to listen to the Word of God proclaimed, you can read and reflect on them yourself at home.

When Advent comes, Christmas will not be far away and so let us pray that our Christmas will be blessed with good health and that this pandemic will soon be over. Stay safe and God Bless. Fr. Tony

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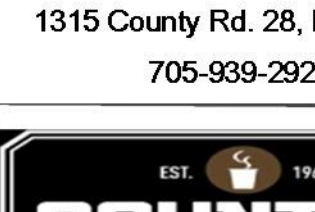
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