

FEBRUARY 14TH, 2021

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 Kloefer/Dolores
Flood/Josef and Hermie Jandristis,

MASS SCHEDULE—FEBRUARY 13 - 21
ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR
PERSONAL ADORATION THIS SUNDAY MORNING FROM
8:30AM TO 10AM.

THE HOLY ROSARY WILL COMMENCE AT 9:00 AM.

FEBRUARY 17TH – ASH WEDNESDAY:

ST. THOMAS MORE - 9:00AM & 5:30PM.

ST. BERNADETTE - 11:00AM.

THURSDAY —9:00AM (CHAPEL)

FRIDAY—5:00 PM—STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FOLLOWED BY MASS

REGULAR WEEKEND MASSES WILL RESUME

ST. THOMAS MORE: SATURDAY 4PM . SUNDAY 9:00AM.

ST. BERNADETTE - SUNDAY 11:00AM
(MAX ATTENDANCE 37)

PLEASE VISIT THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH
WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND LINKS TO ON-LINE MASSES

FR. ANTONIO BAROL MESSAGE - THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
Let me greet you with the mass entrance antiphon; "Be our protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save us. For you are our rock, our stronghold to save us. For you are our rock, our stronghold! Lead us, guide us, for the sake of your name."

Good news, our staying home measure to fight this pandemic is working and the government is slowly going back to our semi normal stage of reopening our churches to the 30% capacity and still following the health protocols of social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing and other precautions.

We can now gather and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass starting Ash Wednesday, February 17th. I will have two masses in Millbrook for the imposition of ashes, one at 9:00am and the second at 5:30pm, for those who are working during the day. Also, at St. Bernadette there will be an 11:00am mass including imposition of ashes. Please, remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence and all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. Fasting is withholding something good, for a time, so that we can depend more fully on God. Fasting offers spiritual sacrifice in solidarity with Jesus himself who after his baptism fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert and for us it is our 40 days journey towards Easter Triduum. Fasting along with prayer is a powerful mode of penance and supplication, and if we fail at it, fasting reminds us that we are in need of redemption. This Lent let us try to go an extra mile in our spiritual journey and if more people would like to attend the weekday masses as part of their extra mile I can switch the mass to the church, to have a larger space. On Fridays mass will follow 5:00pm Stations of the Cross in the church.

Last weekend we learned about how Job managed to cope with his suffering and how he trusted God in spite of all that he had been through life's misfortunes. We know that because of his faithfulness, God blessed him with more blessings than what he had before. In times of difficulties we have to learn from him to be patient and continue to seek the face of God because He is present even in our difficult situations.

Cont'd.....

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Like the disciples and the people of last Sunday's gospel they were searching for Jesus because they had witnessed the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and all those who were sick with various diseases and those possessed by demons. We too have experienced all the good things that the Lord has done for us and so let us not stop searching for him especially in this time of the pandemic. Like Job let us remain faithful and wait for his time.

This weekend we celebrate the Ontario Family Day holiday, allowing us a time to cherish the values in the family which is said to be the basic foundation of our society. Let us thank God for our family, which is part of the roots of life; as wealth, titles, prestige are the fruits of life and faith (God), family and friends are the roots of life. We can manage without the fruits but we can never stand without the roots. Let us hope and pray that this weekend we put emphasis to gathering the family for a little sharing of stories, food and some laughter, reminiscing the past that kept the family one and please don't forget to say a prayer, because the family that prays together stays strong forever. Like the man in the gospel this weekend, let us approach Jesus with humble heart and ask him for his healing touch. Many families have been longing to be together physically but due to this pandemic we follow our health guidelines to refrain from physical gathering, so let us pray that this pandemic will be over soon so that once again we can visit and be with our extended family.

Both the first reading and the gospel reading remind us of what is going on today in the world. At that time people were isolated and distanced from their loved ones due to a certain disease, leprosy, which was considered incurable during the time of Jesus, and now today we are in isolation and distancing from our loved ones because of the coronavirus disease. The lepers before were considered the living dead and they cannot be with others and they have to shout "unclean" so that people will not come near the person, and if by chance an individual came in contact with a leper that person had to isolate themselves too. Let us remember that the world of medicine was not as developed as it is today, so they have to be careful in dealing with those who were sick. Jesus in the gospel proved that he is far more powerful than any kind of virus and sickness and part of his mission is to heal our broken relationship with God and with one another. Sickness and diseases are part of the package that we inherited because of our first parent's sin and Jesus was sent by the Father in order to reconcile us to Himself, to one another and to oneself. Again there is a need to do our part in order to be healed, like the leper we have to come to Jesus and beg. Therefore we approach Jesus with faith and we are healed because we have faith. Like last Sunday's gospel we have to search for Jesus until we find him and beg for healing.

In this time of the pandemic it is our hope and prayer that we continue to search for Jesus and beg him in prayer that he will heal the world from this disease or virus. We find Jesus in the silence of our heart and we say, "Jesus if you choose, you can heal the world from this pandemic." Yes, we are on the right side of this pandemic, but we still need to continue listening to the health experts and continue social distancing, mask wearing and cleanliness protocols. When things get to normal again, let us not forget to return to the Lord in thanksgiving and avoid being ungrateful like the story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus and only one, a stranger, came back to thank him. Let us listen to what St. Paul said in the second reading, "Brothers and sisters: Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

Next Sunday (February 21st) is the first Sunday of Lent already. Let us have a spirit-filled Lenten season, by nourishing ourselves with spiritual things such as prayer, fasting, abstinence, scriptural and spiritual readings. Let us join Jesus in his forty days of sacrifice in fasting and prayer by also having our desert experience. We have some Lenten devotions like Stations of the Cross on Fridays and weekday masses. If more of you take interest in weekday mass as part of your extra mile, I will celebrate the mass in the church which allows more people to attend. I know we already have some kind of daily schedule and if you think 9:00am is not a good time, please let me know. I am just following the schedule that was here when I came, but I am willing to sit down and listen to your suggestions and the telephone line or email is a good place for your feedback.

Quote of the week: "Faith is trusting God when you do not understand His plan. Forgiveness is still the best pain killer and God is still the best healer." (unknown)

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