### SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2021 - 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



28 King St. W., P.O. Box 238 Millbrook, ON LOA 1G0

- **Q** 705-400-7888
- @ office@stthomasmillbrook.ca
  - stthomasmillbrook.ca



PASTOR: FR. ADTODIO BAROL

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially: Erica Perk, Hermie Jandristis, Dolores Flood

And those who have died, especially: Dennis Flood

#### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL
WEDNESDAY: 5:00 PM
THURSDAY: 9:00 AM, FRIDAY: 5:30 PM

#### ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM - For the People of the parish SUNDAY: 9:00 AM - For the end of this pandemic (MAXIMUM CAPACITY 37)

#### ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — Thanksgiving Mass of John and Fien Vandenverg on their 50th wedding anniversary

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

https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/how-do-i-find/livestreaming-and-broadcasting.aspx

#### FR. ADTODIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUDDAY - SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2021

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

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father in communion with the Holy Spirit be with you to bless and protect you at all times.

Last weekend we heard Jesus praising Peter for coming up with an answer that was given to him from above and Jesus did not deny his being the fulfillment of the promised Messiah. After Peter's confession, Jesus explained to them the way of the Messiah in saving the people that it would be through his sacrifice of suffering and dying. The disciples were surprised to hear Jesus calling Peter Satan; from being praised for his correct answer, saying that Jesus is the Messiah to being called Satan and why? Jesus said, "For you are thinking not as God does, but as humans do." How do we humans think then? We think that suffering and pain should not be part of life and some people even think of living forever and not dying. We think of a pain-free life forgetting that pain and suffering had become part of life since the downfall of our first parents when they disobeyed God. No wonder our medical world is always coming up with solutions and medications to take our pains away, and even prolong our borrowed life, but no matter how science has advanced, the solution to stop pain and suffering has not yet been found. They might have found a solution for pain but all are but temporary ones. Pain and suffering are part of life and we have to accept them with patience prayer and hope that when the earthly journey is over and we come to our true Home, we shall be granted a place free from all the troubles of our earthly life because we have endured all things according to God's plan. Therefore, Jesus openly talked to his disciples about his coming passion, his sacrifice on the cross, his death, but also what will happen next that is his rising again in glory.

The disciples cannot understand since their notion of a Messiah was different. The Jews were thinking of a Messiah like King David who would rally the people to fight against the Roman domination. When Jesus talked about going to Jerusalem to be handed over by the religious leader to be crucified, Peter rebuked him. But Jesus' way was the way of peace, the way of sacrifice not violence.

Cont'd ..../

Our gospel this weekend is indeed very timely as our country is preparing for an election of who will be seated on the top, to govern us or to serve us. Since Jesus was talking about dying, the disciples were arguing among themselves who will be second in command, who will be seated at his left and right, which are symbols of power. Jesus then taught them about leadership that it is not about power to dominate or lording over others as the world sees it, but power is meant to serve others as Jesus showed them at the last supper, when he humbled himself and washed their feet. He said, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Service should not be discriminatory in nature but would be for everyone, old and young, rich and poor alike. We know that Jesus had the preferential option for the poor, the voiceless, the vulnerable and the marginalized in the world and Pope Francis wants to embody this spirit of reaching out to the despised and marginalized in our society. During the time of Jesus, the so-called religious leaders avoided the tax collectors and the sinners and Jesus welcomed and cared for them. As a Church we should avoid discrimination and start reaching out to the discriminated by others. In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, it tells us the mind of those who are godless, that they are threatened by the righteous, who do not think about their own good but are willing to make a sacrifice for the good of others. The righteous are other centered, while the godless are self centered who would be willing even to do harm to those who would oppose their wicked ways. Jesus was able to overcome the wicked plan of the religious leaders of his time who were plotting to put an end to his public ministry. They succeeded when they crucified him but Jesus triumphed over death when he rose again as he had promised, though the religious leaders denied the Resurrection up to this day.

St. James in the second reading gave us the picture of why conflicts occur in the world; he said, "Where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind." This happened with the twelve disciples as they were walking with Jesus, but they did not even answer of what they were arguing but Jesus knew. Then Jesus explained to them what leadership power is, that it is meant for service and not for dominating over others.

To those who did not go for the early voting we have time to scrutinize and make a decision on who would be the candidate that fits the description of Jesus, who would be willing to humble and forget their own interests in order to be of service to the greater good, for life, for the environment, for the vulnerable in society and who believes in our national anthem's words, "God keep our land glorious and free." Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten our minds and guide us, as we go to our sacred duty to vote.

May God bless and protect us always as individuals and as a nation. Fr. tony

#### Quote of the week:

"Prayer is the best weapon we have. It is the key to God's heart." (St. Pius of Pietrelcina-Padre Pio)

#### Mass Intentions:

Saturday September 18 @ 4:00 PM – For the People of the Parish; the sick, the homebound the lukewarm and our new Catholics moving to our area.

Sunday, September 19 @ 9:00 AM, to an end of this pandemic.

And Sunday @ 11:00 AM at St. Bernadettes in Nestleton, Thanksgiving Mass of John and Fien Vandenverg on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Announcement: Heads up: October the month of the Holy Rosary is not that far. Let us try to open the month with a Mass and a Holy Rosary. On October 1st, Friday, we have a mass at 5:30 PM in the church to be followed by the Holy Rosary in front of the grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please, come and as a parish Family let us ask the intercession of our heavenly Mother to an end of this pandemic. Thank you and God bless......Fr. tony

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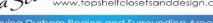
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