




DECEMBER 12TH, 2021 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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, Hermie Jandristis

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM THURSDAY: 10:00 AM
FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

Edward Kolodziejczak

SUNDAY : 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)

For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM – Thanksgiving for members of
St. Bernadette Mission Church

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – DECEMBER 12TH, 2021

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

As we light the candle of Joy in this third Sunday of Advent, let us use the entrance antiphon of the mass, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." May the Joy of Christmas be in our hearts as we near the day that we recall his first coming and as we prepare for his second coming that we do not know when but for sure he is coming again as he had promised. St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians said, "Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

We are more than half way in our Christmas preparation and we should pause a while and ask ourselves are we rejoicing as we prepare to celebrate his first coming we call Christmas, or are we stressed because we have not done much in our preparation. Take time to evaluate the kind of preparation that we are making and we are given the chance to change if ever we are not doing the right preparation. Remember the cry of St. John the Baptist last weekend, "Prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth." This weekend John tried to concretize what kind of preparation and how to do it, to be worthy to stand before the Lord when he comes.

I mentioned last week about the three comings of Jesus in the world. First he came more than two thousand years ago and his coming became the focal point of history. Our history is measured BC, before Christ and AD, Anno Domini, in the year of the Lord. His first coming was marked with obedience to the Father to be born to a simple human family of Joseph and Mary and marked also with utmost humility being born on a stable with the animals; a manger as his bed and his first visitors were the lowly shepherds. Although his birth was prophesied as in the line of King David, yet his birth did not display his being a king according to the minds of the religious leaders. Right from the start of his earthly life he was already showing his being a sign of contradiction to the values of the world and of kings and kingdoms. No wonder he was not accepted even by his own people.

Cont'd .../

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This happened also to John the Baptist, who was supposed to be a priest that serving in the temple and doing priestly services in the temple. But he was in the wilderness, and when the right time came, he became the fulfillment of the Prophet Isaiah, about a voice crying out in the wilderness proclaiming the coming of the Messiah. In the gospel, John the Baptist spelled out how to prepare the way of the Lord, and how to make the path straight and smooth for the Messiah. People were excited to hear John's word and asked for his advice on what they should do. People were now starting to wonder and asked if he could be the Messiah which for their standard might be closer to their

expectation because he was a priest and therefore belong to the priestly order which could be one of their criteria of being a Messiah. With John's humility right from the start of his ministry, he already pointed out that he was not the Messiah but only a forerunner to prepare the way of the one more powerful than he, that he is not even worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

About John's advice to the people, it remains true even to this day, especially in this difficult time when many of our sisters and brothers are struggling to make ends meet due to this pandemic. As I had said before that anything you have not used for over a year now, someone needs it. Try to open your closets and try to sort out things you have not used that others may benefit from. I remember a friend of mine once said to me, "Whenever I bring something inside the house, I have to take one out; otherwise I will run out of space in the house." Sometimes our garage runs out of space because we took some things out of the house but stored them in the garage until one day when we feel we cannot use them any longer; we put a sign, "Garage Sale." Don't wait for that time of garage sale but now is the time.

Development and Peace is asking us to sign a petition addressed to our parliament to pressure mining companies which are based mostly in Canada to rethink about the destruction that they have done to the earth our Common Home, and to the people affected by this destruction. The D&P theme for the 2022 campaign is, "People and Planet First." It is a challenge to acknowledge especially our indigenous sisters and brothers who are usually the victim of these big companies and of course the Earth our Common Home. Let us try to support this effort through our signatures and our prayers.

Quote of the week: "It is not from your own goods that you give to the beggar; it is a portion of his own that you are restoring to him. The earth belongs to all. So you are paying back a debt and think you are making a gift to which you are not bound." (St. Ambrose.)

The Pope's special intention for the month of December – "Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Mass Intentions: Saturday- Dec. 11, 4:00 PM – Edward Kolodziejczak, Sunday 9:00 AM – For the People of the Parish, 11:00 AM – Thanksgiving for members of St. Bernadette mission Church.

Reminder: On Saturday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m., there is a meeting with parents and children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion at the Parish Hall. Pizza will be served following the meeting.

December 24, 2021—Christmas Eve 4:00 pm mass. Please, register your family and the number of attendees for Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm mass. Forms are at the entrance to the Church.

Thank you and God bless....fr. tony

Contact Fr. Tony for details about arranging baptisms, marriages, birthday or anniversary announcements or blessings, or mass devotions.

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