

DECEMBER 19TH, 2021 - FOURTH 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

For the eternal rest of Chester & Charlotte Rostkowski

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

For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM – For the eternal rest of Ilda Moniz

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – DECEMBER 19TH, 2021

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
Let us use the words of Prophet Isaiah as our greetings this weekend; "Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour." May the love of God the Father shown to us by sending his only begotten Son Jesus; strengthen us in this difficult journey of life as we navigate another threat of virus present in the world. We just have to continue our vigilant journey to protect one another especially as we are nearing an important joyful Feast of the Church, Christmas; the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. Let us pray that all our plans to gather as a parish family to celebrate Christmas will be blessed with safety and so with your family gathering too.

I would like to share with you the Christmas message from our beloved Bishop Daniel Miehm.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In one of my favourite Christmas Carols, it is said of the little town of Bethlehem, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Hopes and fears are common to all of us in our human experience, and for people of faith, these realities are all mingled. When faith is strong, hope will be on the rise. When faith is weakened, fear may take over.

The last twenty one months have acquainted us with both fear and hope. It has often seemed that, just as hopes are raised, they are dashed again. The fight against the pandemic has been long and we may be growing dispirited. So let the Good News of Christ's birth infuse our hearts this Christmas more than ever. God, who knows our hopes and our fears, our dreams and our despondency, has chosen to come among us as the Word made Flesh, Emmanuel. The birth of Jesus Christ bought all the hopes and fears of humanity together in God's plan for our salvation. As it was in Bethlehem two millennia ago, let it be so today. This Christmas may God overcome our fears with his hope and help us to celebrate this season of joy.

Yours in Christ, +Daniel Miehm

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It is indeed a very good message for us all as we celebrate the last Sunday of Advent, when we light the fourth candle of Love. We celebrate the love of God shown to us by sending us his only begotten Son to save us from any human weakness, including our fears and our sinfulness. The Virgin Mary who accepted the message of the Angel conquered her fear by trusting God when she submitted herself and said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord be it done to me according to your word." God chose the lowly to be exalted, like in the first reading selecting the little town of Bethlehem and taking the little clans of Judea to come forth the one to rule in Israel.

In the gospel today, St. Luke narrated to us the flight of Mary setting out with haste to a Judean town to visit Elizabeth who was also expecting a child in her old age, because the Angel said, "For nothing is impossible with God."

In this difficult pandemic Christmas journey we have to trust in God that in his time he will make all things beautiful again. As I mentioned before, we do not have all the answers of the many questions but we have faith to assure us that God loves us and he knows what we have been through. We just have to be patient and wait, as the people in the past had waited for the Messiah to come, we too should wait patiently for God's time to heal the world from this virus. For now we have to continue our health protocols to protect one another because following them are signs that we love and care for each other.

On my part as your pastor, "I wish you all a blessed, happy Christmas and may you have a safe family gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus into the human family. Christmas is about Christ coming to the world to become part of our human family to teach us Love. May his Love shine in our family this Christmas and the whole year through.

Stay safe always and God bless.....fr. tony

Quote of the week; "What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love him in return. In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything is useless." (St. John Paul II)

Mass Intentions: Saturday, Dec. 18 @ 4:00 PM - Eternal rest of: Chester and Charlotte Rostkowski. Dec. 19, Sunday @9:00 AM- For the People of the Parish; 11 AM in Nestleton- For the eternal rest of Ilda Moniz.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

December 24: St. Thomas More Church: 4:00 PM (for families with children) and 10:00 PM.

St. Bernadettes in Nestleton: 7:00 PM.

December 25: St. Thomas More Church, Millbrook: 10:00 AM

ATTENTION!

Please, pick up your personalized 2022 offertory envelopes at the West entrance to the Church. If you are new to the parish you can pick up a box without a name and write your name for a couple of weeks so that you will be registered with the parish as well as receive a tax receipt. Thank you and welcome to St. Thomas More Catholic Parish Family and we are happy to have you.

If you are new to the area, please complete a Registration Form and drop it in the offertory basket or you may register on-line through our website. Thank you and we are happy to have you.

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

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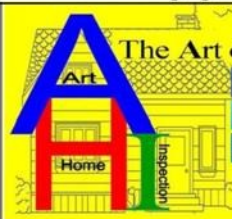
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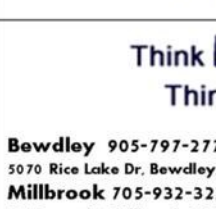
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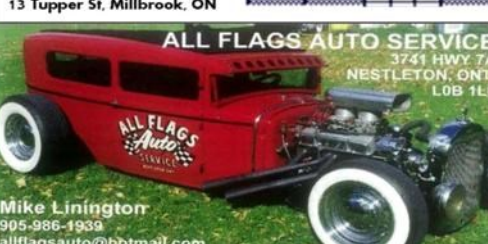
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