DECEMBER 5TH, 2021 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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PASTOR: FR. ADTODIO BAROL

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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 June Beebe SUNDAY : 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM) For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — Forgiveness and Reconciliation with Indigenous people.

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. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY - DECEMBER 5TH, 2021

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

Let me use one of the prayer of blessings for this Sunday, "May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his second coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing." As we have mentioned that Advent is looking back at Jesus first coming which we call and celebrate every year as Christmas, we also look forward to his second coming at the end of time. We should add one more aspect of Advent and that is to look around for God's ever presence among us in the here and now. Let us remember that Jesus promised to his followers who were feeling down hearted at the thought of Jesus leaving them; Jesus assured them, I will be with you always until the end of time. The Holy Spirit was sent to be with us to fulfill the promise that God will be with us at all times. Therefore during Advent as we look back to celebrate his first coming, and as we look forward to his second coming, we should also look around us and see God among us especially the poor the homeless, the strangers, the sick and all those who are in need because at the end of our life's journey when we stand before our creator and judge he will ask us what we have done to the least of our brothers and sisters, because whatsoever we have done to them we have done it to him.

In this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Prophet Baruch in the first reading said, "Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem and put on forever the beauty of the glory of God. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'." As we have mentioned the Old Testament writings, especially that of the prophets were looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promise of a Messiah who would liberate them from the Roman domination. With the birth of Jesus, he became the focal point of history. We recall that history is divided BC (before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini the year of the Lord). We are the in-between people that looked back to the time of Christ's first coming and we looked forward to his second coming at the end of time. While we wait, we are given the task of continuing the work that Christ initiated, the building of his kingdom of love, justice and peace.

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As we go on living, we must look around because God has not abandoned us, but continues to inspire us through the Spirit that the day will come that the new heaven and the new earth will emerge from the ruins that Jesus mentioned that will happen before he comes again. It is our prayer and our hope that we will be able to stand before the throne of God ready to give an accounting of what we have done to the least of our brothers and sisters whom the King on judgement day will identify himself.

In the gospel of St. Luke which we are using for the cycle C of our liturgical calendar, we hear the message of St. John the Baptist; "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." We know that scripture is full of metaphors and here's a good example that we should not interpret them literally otherwise there will no longer be mountains, hills and valleys. To prepare the way of the Lord is to make ready our spiritual life, that whatever will cause or hinder the smooth entry of the Lord in our lives, we should try to correct them, like the mountains and hills of pride and arrogance should be taken out, that we should humble ourselves and ready to accept the humble child born in a manger. We should make level the valleys of our hopelessness and anxiety and fill them with the prayers of faith and hope that God will lift us up to believe that he has a reason for all these things that are happening now, and in his time he will make all things beautiful again. Let us make straight the crooked ways of living that hinder our sight to see our needy sisters and brothers, especially the victims of the many injustices in the world caused by the greed of people not really for development but for profit. The Development and Peace Canada is asking us to sign a petition letter addressed to our parliament that they will help in controlling the on-going destruction of the natural resources in developing countries. Our dream of peace cannot be realized if there is injustice in the world. As it is said that if you want peace, work for justice.

This Advent as we look around to see God's presence among us, let us take the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians, "And this is my prayer that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." As we continue our journey this Advent, let us pray for one another that God will bless and protect us especially as we gather as a parish and as a family to celebrate the birth of Christ.

<u>Please</u> register if you are attending with your family and with children for the 4:00 PM mass on December 24th. A sign-up sheet is at the entrance to the Church. This is also for the contract tracing purposes as we are continuing the Covid health protocols. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

God bless Fr. Tony

<u>Quote of the week:</u> "This Christmas, when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

<u>The Pope's special intention for the month of December</u> – "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."

<u>Mass Intentions:</u> Saturday Dec. 4, @4 PM – June Beebe, Sunday, December 5, @9AM – for the People of the Parish, 11AM @ St. Bernadette – Forgiveness and Reconciliation with Indigenous people

<u>Announcements</u>: December 11, Saturday, is "National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples." Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Peterborough starting at 10 AM will be doing a Prayer Service. Here at St. Thomas More, we have a Mass at 9:00AM to be followed by the CWMC meeting. Even if you are unable to attend any of these, please set aside some minutes in prayer for the success of the on-going journey towards Truth and Reconciliation, especially the trip of some Indigenous representatives to the Vatican this December as a preparation for Pope's Francis visit to Canada in 2022.

Attention parents with children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion, we have a special meeting on Saturday the 18th of December at 11:00 AM. Pizza will be served after the meeting. See you all!

