

JANUARY 2ND, 2022 - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



28 King St. W., P.O. Box 238
Millbrook, ON L0A 1G0



705-932-3325 or 705-854-1533



office@stthomasmillbrook.ca



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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 CHURCH
FRIDAY, DEC 31 3PM HOLY HOUR AND MASS AT 4PM

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON
SATURDAY: JAN 1, AT 11:00AM

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ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL
WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK
SUNDAY JAN 2ND - 9:00 AM

For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON
SUNDAY JAN 2ND 11:00 AM

For the journey of Truth and Reconciliation with the
indigenous brothers and sisters.

FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – JANUARY 2ND, 2022

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,
I would like to greet you using one of the Christmas antiphons: "A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel." May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be upon you and your family.

We have just celebrated the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; we prayed that God will bless our family with love and care that the members can journey together towards the heavenly family which the Lord Jesus brought into the world by his birth. On the 1st day of the year, we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The honoring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. This is just a proper way of putting the Blessed Virgin Mary in her proper place as our common Mother in which when we came into the world our first contact was our mother, therefore the Church celebrates the first day of the year as the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This day is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. It is a reminder of the role she played in the salvation of humankind. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". Mary being chosen by God, the Father, to bring Jesus Christ into this world, and her willingness to do so is great cause of celebration.

The first Sunday of January, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a feast that proclaimed Jesus to the world as the King of Israel. This was shown by the presence of the three Wise Men from the different parts of the world bringing the gifts of gold to acknowledge him as a king; frankincense to show that he is the high priest to offer a sacrifice of himself to save the world; and myrrh to show that he will rise again and that his kingdom has no end. Like the three wise men let us also continue in search of Jesus in our lives and let us open our eyes to see them in our needy sisters and brothers and let us reach our hands to help them in any way that we can answer the question of the King who will come again at the end times of our life, "Whatsoever you have done to the least of my sisters and brothers you have done it to me."

Cont'd/

Most of us in the start of the year might make some New Year's resolutions. What then is our new year's resolution for 2022? It is said that when you make a resolution try to make it an attainable one, that with the grace of God and your personal effort, it is not an impossible dream but possible. With the ongoing pandemic maybe we can make one that will continue to protect our vulnerable sisters and brothers, or maybe in the process of keeping safe and helping our local industry make a commitment to shop locally for the good of our local industry and workers. Or we can improve our spiritual journey with the Lord, by maybe making a commitment to attend the weekend liturgy and celebrate the day of the Lord regularly with our sisters and brothers in the parish. We can also go another mile by adding one or more masses during the weekdays. Jesus wants to be born no longer in the cold manger but wants to be born in the warmth of our hearts. During some of our times during the day we might also add some devotional prayers like the Holy Rosary or by praying the Divine Mercy chaplet. Every day and every moment in our life is another opportunity given to us by God so that we turn to him in prayer.

May this feast of the Three Wise Men make us wise enough to search for Jesus as we journey from earth to eternal life knowing that what matters in life is not what we have possessed but what we have given away to help others.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in this difficult time. Stay safe and God bless....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "There are two births of Christ: one in the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul."
(Ven. Fulton Sheen)

The Pope's special intention for the month of January: "We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family."

Mass Intentions:

(Saturday - Dec. 31 - No mass at 4PM in Millbrook)

Sunday - Jan. 2 @ 9AM in Millbrook – for the People of the parish, and

11AM @ St. Bernadette , Nestleton – For the journey of Truth and Reconciliation with the indigenous brothers and sisters.

Thank you for all your greetings wishes and gifts you shared this Christmas and I pray that God will continue to bless you with good health and good things in life this coming year 2022. Let us welcome the New Year with Faith, Hope and Love. Faith makes everything possible. Hope makes everything Work. Love makes everything beautiful. May you have all three and more every moment of every day, of every month in 2022.

Last Thursday during my 44th year priesthood anniversary I set 5 hosts for consecration and God sent 8 people to celebrate with me. God is good and generous all the time.

Looking ahead: Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18-25, 2022 – This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires.

Reminder: During winter, if you think that the stairs are slippery and you are not comfortable using it, please, feel free to pass through the Hall and climb to the church. Please, be extra careful especially on snowy days.

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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