

# JANUARY 9TH, 2022 - FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## 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, Gerrard Coady and  
Fr. Peter Conlin

### 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 Noble and June Beebe

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

For Parishioners of St. Thomas More & St. Bernadette

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — To an end to this pandemic,  
especially the sick and protection to our frontline workers.

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## FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – JANUARY 9TH, 2022

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

In this difficult time, let us use Psalm 85 for our greetings: "Turn your ear O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord. For I cry to you all day long." May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father in communion with the Holy Spirit be with you to protect you at all times.

We do continue to navigate life in this difficult moment of the pandemic and let us invoke our heavenly Mother Mary and all the saints to intercede for us, to take this virus away from us, to heal all the sick and to protect all our essential workers. It will almost be two years and it is our hope and prayers that we have learn things from this pandemic time, especially in our relationship with God in prayer our relationship with one another as we come to protect each other and on how we have followed all the health protocols although at times we complain and grumble thinking that we have a better idea than our leaders who are trying their very best to protect the people they are meant to serve. During this difficult time, let us be more understanding to those who are trying to keep us safe and therefore let us try to do our part.

After we have celebrated the season of Christmas, this Sunday we are celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Jesus. We know that John the Baptist baptised Jesus just before he started his public ministry, which biblical scholars would say when he was around 30 years old. We might ask did Jesus really need baptism if Baptism takes away original sin, because Jesus did not commit any sin. In St. Matthew's account of the baptism, there was a short dialogue between Jesus and John the Baptist. He submitted himself for baptism in order to fulfill all what had been told about him, how he humbled himself becoming one of us in all things except sin. He gave us the example of humility, submitting himself to the will of the Father and therefore after his baptism a voice was heard, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." Remember last Christmas, I said, "Christmas is about Love, Obedience and Humility and Jesus showed all these. St. Paul therefore said in his letter to the Philippians, "For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name." (Phil. 2:9)

Cont'd ....

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Let us not forget that the original sin was due to our first parent's disobedience to God's commandment. This sin of disobedience can only be rectified by the obedience of one who saved the world. In the ceremony of the sacrament of baptism, the minister will ask the person if he/she is an adult but for a baby this will be addressed to the parents and godparents about our refusal to submit to Satan's influence and denounce all his tactics, and we are also asked to make an allegiance to believe in God's Holy Trinity, and make an act of faith to the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Since we Catholics practiced the baptism of infants we pass the responsibility to the parents and godparents with the hope that every year during the Easter Vigil and Easter masses, we all renew these promises.

Baptism is indeed a great moment in our life that we become a child of God, we become brothers and sisters and we all are heirs of the kingdom of God. They said that when one enters the religious life they no longer celebrate their birthdays but instead they celebrate their day of baptism, that you become a child of God after being a child of the universe. Remember our dual citizenship, we are citizens of this world when we were born and we became citizens of heaven during our baptism.

This feast of the baptism of the Lord reminds us of the mission that God has given us, that like Jesus after his baptism he was led into the desert to prepare himself for his public ministry. We too are given the mission to carry on the mission of Jesus to proclaim the good news of his kingdom, a kingdom of love, justice and peace. Christ has no more hands to heal the sick but ours, we are now the heart of Jesus to show compassion to those who are afflicted, we are now the feet of Jesus to walk on earth; in other words we are now the light of the world and the salt of the earth and we are the reflection of Christ in the world today and he has given us all the tools that we need to continue his mission. In this way we are storing up treasures in heaven.

Quote of the week, "The only true riches are those that make us rich in virtue; therefore, if you want to be rich, beloved, love true riches. If you aspire to the heights of real honour, strive to reach the kingdom of heaven."  
(St. Gregory the Great.)

Pope Francis prayer intention for January 2022: 'For those who suffer religious persecution'.

Mass Intentions:

Jan. 8, Saturday @4PM – For the eternal rest of: Noble and June Beebe,

Jan. 9, Sunday @9AM – For parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,

and 11AM @ St. Bernadette in Nestleton – For an end of this pandemic, especially for the sick and protection to our frontline workers.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be in January 18 to 25. Every Pope from Pope St. John XXIII onward has said that if we want to be fully converted to Christ, we need to be committed to Christian Unity. A personal commitment to ecumenism is part of what it means to be Catholic. Since it is in the middle of the week some suggested that we can start it from Sunday, January 16 to Sunday January 23rd. All masses for that weekend and during the weekdays will be for the intention for Christian Unity.

Thanks 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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