

JANUARY 23RD, 2022 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 'SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD'

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

stthomasmillbrook.ca



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 Daniel Beebe

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

For the people of the parish

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — For Christian Unity.

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – JANUARY 23RD, 2022

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

Let us use Psalm 16 as our greeting in this difficult time of the pandemic. "To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me." May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love and mercy of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be always with you.

We will soon complete the two years period of our pandemic time and still we can count our blessings. Last week-end we hear the gospel of St. John narrating to us the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana, where he changed water into wine through the intercession of his mother Mary, who told the servants to do what he (Jesus) will tell them. In this difficult time of our journey let us try to call on our Mother Mary's intercession with faith in our heart that as she interceded during the wedding at Cana she will also intercede for our needs today. Let us also listen to her last words recorded in scripture, "Do whatever he tells you." We might be thinking what would Jesus be telling us in this difficult time, would it be the words he said in Matthew's gospel when Peter was sinking "You have so little faith, he said, why did you doubt?" Would it be the words he said in Luke's gospel (Lk.12:32) when people are worried and would doubt about God's providence, "There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom." In this pandemic period God is asking us to renew our faith and confidence in him and we just have to put our trust in Him. We have to continue praying to an end of this pandemic, let us also remember that, prayer is not like a spare tire that we pull out when we are in trouble, but it is like a steering wheel that directs us to the right path throughout our life. Remember this also, when you pray for others, God listens to you and sometimes when you are safe and happy remember that someone has prayed for you. Let us then continue praying for one another that God will keep us safe and healthy until the day that we will be back to our normal way of living. We are almost there and let us continue the small sacrifice that we are asked to do.

Cont'd..../

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This weekend Prophet Nehemiah in the first reading tried to relate the return of the exile and thus the birth of Judaism and the priest-scribe Ezra brought the Book of the Law of Moses and read to them in public. Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites said to the people, "Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep," for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further, "Go. Eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared, for today is holy to the Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength." We are not really that far into the season of Lent and we know that Lent would remind us of the sacrifice that our Lord Jesus did to save us. The season will be asking us to journey with Jesus suffering and dying for us. It would then be looking back to Jesus sacrifice. This was in the mind of the Jews when they remembered the God who brought them out of slavery from Egypt, the same God that they had forgotten when they were in the land flowing with milk and honey. It is human tendency to forget the past when we have everything in life. That was what happened to the Israelites when they settled in the Promised Land, they have forgotten God.

In the gospel today, St. Luke introduced his writings to the children of God, "Theophilus" after he had investigated and gathered all the stories and writings about Jesus. Therefore from chapter 1, verses 1-4 is the introductory statement and then it jumped to chapter 4:14-20, telling us about how Jesus started his ministry by returning to Galilee, because the rest of chapters 1, 2 and 3 deals with the birth and the hidden life of John the Baptist and Jesus and starting chapter 4:14, Jesus started his public ministry in Galilee by attending the synagogue service in his hometown Nazareth. As his custom as a devout Jew the synagogue service was a day of obligation for them. During the scripture reading he stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." After reading, he returned the scroll to the attendant and sat down. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Just try to imagine that you were one of those in attendance during that Sabbath synagogue service, what would be your reaction, to a person who will say that the Scripture has come to fulfillment, that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him and yet you know well that the man speaking to you is your neighbor, maybe your friend and the son of the late carpenter Joseph and his mother is with you in the assembly. We know the gospel ends with Jesus words that the passage from Prophet Isaiah has come to fulfillment. We are given the task to continue the story and we are asked to give our own conclusion on what will happen next in his ministry. As we start to journey with Jesus in his public ministry, our generation is considered blessed because we have to believe even if we have not seen him personally. Jesus said to Thomas who was at first doubting about the resurrection, "You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John;20:29)

The second reading today is St. Paul's vision of the Church as a Mystical Body of Christ with different parts and different functions but one body. This will lead us to Pope Francis call of the Church's role in the world as a Communion of people, with Participation in different functions leading to her Mission as a Church leading to the Kingdom of God. Let us then continue the parish sessions that we are tasked to do. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way approaching Jesus." (St. Louis Grignion de Monfort)

Mass Intentions: Saturday January 22; @4 PM – Daniel Beebe, Sunday, January 23: @9AM – for the People of the Parish, 11AM @ St. Bernadette – For Christian Unity

Sunday January 23, 2022 @ 4:00 PM, The Greater Toronto Council of Churches will have a virtual Prayer Service. Please go to the website of the Canadian Council of Churches.

The Annual St. Joseph Dinner to support the Campus Ministry of Trent University and Fleming College will be held on February 5, starting at 6:30 pm. For more information how to participate just go to: Peterborough Campus Ministry website. Rev. Fr. John Perdue the diocesan Vocation Director and Campus Ministry chaplain is asking for our support.

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

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