

JANUARY 30TH, 2022– FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, Victoria Meneses, Rita Lockhart, John Miron,
Augustine Sheppard, and Fr. Peter Conlin.

For those who have died, especially:
Fr. Floro Arcamo, and Roberto Banda

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

THURSDAY: 10:00 AM, FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM (Feast of Presentation of the Lord)

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the Eternal rest of Roberto Banda

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

For the people of the parish

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — For Peace in the world

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – JANUARY 30TH, 2022

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

Let us use Psalm 69 for our greeting, "O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay." May the love and mercy of God the Father, the peace of the Risen Lord and the communion of the Holy Spirit be upon us all. As we look forward to the end of this dark tunnel of the pandemic, let us call to mind the blessings that God has given us, the gift of prayer that helped us carry our faith knowing that we have a loving and merciful God who journey with us in this difficult time protecting us from all harm of mind, body and spirit. Let us also remember that the basic law of prayer is; "that in prayer we receive not the answer which we desire but the answer which God in his wisdom and his love knows to be the best," so walk with faith in your heart and our faith doesn't always take us out of the storm but it will calm us in the midst of the storm; believing that at the end of the storm is a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark.

This week we continue to reflect on Jesus ministry after He proclaimed last week that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him and was given the task to proclaim the good news of the kingdom. The first reaction of the people was, "the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently on him." And then Jesus said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." The people used their two senses of seeing and hearing. God has given us two pairs of eyes and ears, that we may see the two sides of things and that we also would hear both sides of the story. They saw Jesus as a man who was a devoted Jew who came to the synagogue every Sabbath and who grew up with them and as a son of Joseph the carpenter and of his mother Mary. About their sense of hearing, they listened to him as St. Luke said, "And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." What happened next changed the everything; from admiration, the mind of the people after seeing and hearing, they went on to scrutinize Jesus personal root as Joseph the carpenter's son. They then doubted His capacity to teach because He had no educational background; in other words, they doubted God's power to select a person to do His mission as a prophet. Therefore, Jesus quoted the proverb, "Physician, cure yourself and do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum." Mark's Gospel put Jesus' first Galilean mission in Capernaum because it was a meeting place for people and has a port by the sea of Galilee. This is where he called his first disciples and was already performing miracles, driving out an evil spirit that St. Mark said, "And so the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the province of Galilee. No wonder the people of Nazareth wanted him to perform some miracles too" but Jesus had another way of testing their faith by refreshing their minds about the life of the prophets".

Cont'd...../

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Prophet Jeremiah in our first reading was a very good example of what it was to be a prophet. Chosen by God since the beginning of life, no one can say 'no' to God's plan, he has to speak God's message no matter what the outcome would be and like the others he was rejected by his own people for speaking the truth about their coming disaster, because of their hardness of heart moving away from God's covenant. Jeremiah witnessed the fall of Jerusalem and he himself was taken to Babylon as an exile.

Jesus pointed out to the people about the life of the prophet how they were treated in the past and he was beginning to experience their life especially when he was trying to point out about God's inclusive love, by telling them about the events of the past how God through the prophets helped the strangers and the so-called outsiders of the Jewish circle. This angered the people who thought that they were the only privileged people of God. As we go along the journey of Jesus, he made it clear that God is the God of all peoples and God hears every prayer especially from the outcasts, the marginalized and the despised in the world.

We just concluded the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with the hope that we can work together as the Mystical Body of Christ with different parts and different functions. Way back in the Philippines, one of the Sunday past-times of the elderly was to go to the town plaza where a public kiosk stands and listen to a debate between different denominations, Christian and non-Christians because we have a group that bears the name of Christ yet don't believe in Christ as the Saviour. Thanks to God that these are things of the past because it doesn't really heal the wounds of division and even on some occasions caused violence. We even have a group called Catholic Faith Defender, trying to defend the Catholic faith because usually it was them versus the Catholic Church. Thanks to Vatican II, which promulgated the Ecumenical movement with the premise that we are all children of God and with St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians that we are one body, one Lord, one Faith one Baptism. In our second reading today St. Paul once again mentioned the important thing in life when he said, "So faith, hope and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is Love," and the greatest test of love is sacrifice and so in this pandemic time we are called to sacrifice even our personal freedom for the good of all.....Stay safe and healthy. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness." (St. John Chrysostom)

Mass Intentions: Saturday January 29 @ 4 PM – for the Eternal rest of †Roberto Banda,
Sunday, January 30 @ 9AM – for the People of the Parish, and 11AM @ St. Bernadette – for Peace in the World.

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.

Thank you to all those who have responded to our Parish Census with the hope that we can create a profile for our parish family and St. Thomas More Parish as decreed on June 12th 1978, meaning we will be 45 years as a parish next year. Let's hope and pray that we can celebrate another milestone of the parish.

Pope's intention for February: For religious sisters and consecrated women: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women, thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Wednesday, February 2nd, is the feast of the "Presentation of the Lord," and this is associated with the blessings of candles, as the child Jesus was presented in the Temple according to the gospel of St. Luke, "A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory to your people Israel." The blessing of candles is part of the liturgy and if you have some candles that you will be using during your prayers at home and you want them blessed, please bring them earlier to church. The mass will be in the church at 5:30 PM. Please, come a little early to join in praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and let us ask the intercession of our heavenly Mother Mary for peace in the world and to an end of this pandemic.

Please pray for the sick: Erica Perk, Fr. Peter Conlin, Rita Lockhart, Victoriana Meneses, Augustine Sheppard, John Miron. And for those who died: Fr. Floro Arcamo, Roberto Banda.

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

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