

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2022- SEVENTH 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, Fr. Peter Conlin, Rita Lockhart, Augustine Sheppard, John Miron, Pacita Meneses, Cory Wanjon

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 Pedro Barol†

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

For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

For the journey of truth and reconciliation between the church and the Indigenous people of Canada.

PLEASE VISIT THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND LINKS TO ON-LINE MASSES

FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 20TH, 2022

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

Let us use the mass entrance antiphon: "O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me." As we navigate in this uncertain time, let us continue to trust in the love and mercy of God who has been good to us in many ways, especially in his protection and care that we are blessed to be able to gather as a church family. Let us also keep in mind and continue to pray for those who are struggling to understand this situation that God may touch and open their hearts to the need and protection of others especially the most vulnerable in society. Let us continue to ask the intercession of our heavenly Mother Mary by praying daily the Holy Rosary and join us every Sunday before the mass.

Last weekend Jesus challenged us to be poor in spirit that we might yearn for God to fill up what is missing in our life, because it is said that no one is rich enough that he/she does not need anything and there is no one so poor enough that he/she has nothing to give. If we have the wealth, then try to express that gratitude and thank God who is the source of your blessing and please do not forget that our blessings are not for us alone but should be shared with those who have less in life. If you are in need of material things for your sustenance, ask the Lord to touch the hearts of those who have that God may open their hearts and become generous, because Jesus said, "Give, and gifts will be given you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap." I would take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support to our parish that so that we remain to have a pastor in residence. As the churches are starting to reopen, let our prayers be that those who have not come for a little due to health and other reasons may find their way back to the Church to celebrate and worship with us on the weekends. Rest assured that we are trying to follow all the health protocols to keep one another safe.

Once again in this weekend readings, we hear another of Jesus' teaching hard to understand and accept, that is loving our enemies, especially the old mentality of people concerning the 'an eye for an eye' commandment found in Exodus 21:23-27; which expresses the principle of reciprocal justice measure for measure. In Roman civilization, the law of retaliation bears the same principle that a person who has injured another person is to be penalized to a similar degree by the injured party.

Cont'd/

As I mentioned before as prophesied by the old man Simeon during the presentation in the temple, he said, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and to reveal the secret of their thoughts." Jesus in his lifetime had been fulfilling the prophecy of the many prophets especially Prophet Isaiah's suffering servant image of Jesus. We know that the Jewish people had been very observant of the Torah or the first five books of scripture especially on laws, regulations and traditions.

In the first reading from the Book of Samuel, we learned that David himself did not apply the "lex taliones" to King Saul, because David had a strong belief that Kings were of divine origin, that they were anointed by God for a reason. With the opportunity in his favor, he could have easily killed Saul who was hunting David like a wild animal. David was trying to tell his followers to respect authority no matter how crooked they were because God who appointed and anointed them has his way of disposing them in His time and not ours to decide. Sometimes we humans are just too anxious, and hatred driven to do bad things to our leaders sometimes even putting the law into our own hands. About authorities St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, (13:1-2); "Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God." Let us not forget that God works in a mysterious way, and some would say God writes straight even in crooked lines.

St. Paul, in chapter 12 of his letter to the Romans, spelled out how to love our enemies, in verse 14ff, he said, "Ask God to bless those who persecute you, yes ask him to bless, not to curse. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise." When St. Martin de Porres applied to the Dominican order at first he was refused because of his color, and was accepted as a servant, later on when he became popular because of his humility and healing ministry, he was accepted as a brother. We can also learn from the humility of St. Brother Andre of the famous St. Joseph's Oratory, he was accepted to the group in order to be a door keeper and he welcomed everyone with care and compassion and even healed many of them from the oil taken from the sanctuary lamp of the chapel of St. Joseph. The best example of forgiveness, compassion and mercy is of course our Lord Jesus while hanging on the cross, he forgave his persecutors, he afforded compassion and mercy to the repentant thief and after the Resurrection forgave Peter of his triple denial and the rest of the Apostles for running away, abandoning him to be taken and condemn to death.

Let us try to examine ourselves and ask, "Is there anyone in our life that we have not forgiven, or is there anyone that we are still waiting to ask for forgiveness before we can give them? The soldiers who persecuted Jesus did not ask for forgiveness, but Jesus gave it to them. A saying goes, "Holding a grudge doesn't make you strong, it makes you bitter. Forgiving doesn't make you weak, it sets you free."

Stay safe and healthy. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have, I may request humbly from those who do." (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Mass Intentions: Saturday, February 19 @4 PM – for the eternal rest of Pedro Barol. Sunday, February 20 @ 9AM – for the People of the Parish and 11AM @ St. Bernadette - for the journey of truth and reconciliation between the Church and the Indigenous people of Canada.

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. St. Thomas More Parish was decreed on the 12th of June 1978, meaning we will be 45 years as a parish next year. Let's hope and pray that we can celebrate in person another milestone of the parish and to create a good profile of the parish will indeed be great. Maybe on our coming golden year we can have another Parish Photo Booklet.

Please Help! Copies for the questions for this coming Saturday session are found at the back of the church, you are invited to join and we need parishioners to get involved in this discussion process. Christ is counting on YOU!.....Thank you. Please, bring your old Palm leaves from last year to be used during "Ash Wednesday."

2021 tax receipts for donations are now ready to be picked up. Please pick them so that we can economize with the stamps. Thank you very much for your generous donations; it is our hope and prayer that God will continue to bless you with good health and good things in life.

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

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