

FEBRUARY 27TH, 2022 – EIGHTH 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, Pacita Meneses, Cory Wanjon, John Miron

Those who have died, especially: John Moran

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL
THURSDAY: 10:00 AM, FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK
ASH WEDNESDAY: 10:00 AM
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the eternal rest of Frankie Battaglia†
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)

For the People of the Parish

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

For Peace in Ukraine and the World.

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 27TH, 2022

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

Let us use the entrance antiphon from Psalm 17:19-20; "The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me." Let us continue our journey of faith in this difficult time, believing that God knows what we are going through and that in His time He will make all things beautiful again. Let us remember that God has a purpose for our pain, a reason for our struggles, and a reward for our faithfulness. Don't ever give up. Let us hold on together in this difficult time and let us show our unity in fighting together this battle against this pandemic. Let us all believe that we can do it, by our prayers and sacrifice, like following the health protocols and sacrificing our own needs for the good of others. In this difficult time let us try to avoid pointing fingers, as it is said, "Never blame anyone in your life, the good people give you happiness, the bad people give you experience, the worst people give you lesson, and the best people give you memories."

Last weekend, Jesus gave us a difficult teaching, to love our enemies, to pray for those who mistreat us, to give and to share to those who cannot repay us, because God who knows what we are doing will reward us even more of what we have given away. We know that Jesus is teaching us his followers that there's something more of what we have possess here on earth and that our preparation in the future should not end here in this world but should go beyond our senses, beyond this wonderful world of the living, because we are preparing 'eternal life.' As the reading on the 6th Sunday said, we are preparing for a true and lasting happiness after our journey here in this valley of tears which St. Paul mentioned in his first letter to the Corinthians 15; 16-20, "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all the people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." As followers of the Risen Savior, St. Paul said, (1Cor.15:49) Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, (the first Adam), we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. (Jesus). Therefore, we should not put all our efforts and trusts in the material things because at the end of life's journey, we leave everything behind and we face the judgement seat of God empty and no wonder Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." As we travel this life's journey, "Leave the past in the heart of God, travel light in the present. The future put in the hands of God, life is full of mystery, less clarity, and we need faith in our journey."

Cont'd .../

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The readings today tell of the abundance of our heart, that it is fashioned by what is in our mind and many times we must separate the good from the bad like using a sieve so that what remain will be the good ones to be stored in our memories. Prophet Sirach is telling us that sometimes God will shake us in order that the good things will come out of us, because it is in suffering and tribulation that a person's character is manifested, whether we are an optimist or a pessimist, a skeptic, a believer, or unbeliever. Jesus is also warning us not to be judgemental about others because we too have our own faults and failures in life. This part of the gospel of St. Luke is indeed a strange section that different teachings are put together and does not even connect to one another. We know that before the scripture was put into writing there was the oral tradition that people would be telling the different stories about Jesus words and so St. Luke just put them together as part of his gospel. The first lesson that Jesus told was about how to be a good guide in life, and not like a blind person guide guiding another blind person and that we should learn from a good teacher, so that we too might become a good teacher too in the future, because we cannot give what we do not have.

Jesus is also warning his followers to refrain from judging others like trying to correct other's faults and failures because we too have our own faults and failures. It is about our relationship with our sisters and brothers that we should be of service to others in their journey towards holiness as God has called us to be holy. Holiness is a matter of the heart that is formed by what our senses have collected around us, and we remember Jesus saying what comes inside of a person does not defile the person but what comes out of a person defiles a person. Let us then fill our hearts and minds of the knowledge of God, his love, compassion and mercy. As Jesus said, "Out of the good treasure of the heart, the good person produces good, and out of evil treasure, the evil person produces evil, for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

This will bring us to the next Church Liturgical year, the season of Lent, when we examine our hearts whether it belongs to God or to this world. Do not forget that in Lent we must go another mile in our spiritual journey to prepare ourselves to worthily renew our baptismal promises. According to the coming Synod we have to ask about our Communion with one another, then we have to examine our Participation in the Church and then we have to know what is our Mission that Jesus has left us to do in order to realize the Kingdom that he has started to build in the world with the hope that we have made some progress.

Let us pray for Pope Francis that as he tries to embark in this Synod he will be given the strength and the wisdom to finish it guided by the Spirit of truth, humility and obedience. Let us also pray for all the Bishops in the world that they too may embrace the spirit of collegiality as shepherds of the flock in collaboration with Pope Francis, who is trying his best to make the Church according to the mind and heart of Jesus.

Let us also pray for peace in the world especially between Ukraine and Russia.

Please, stay safe and healthy. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "“Don't say, "That person bothers me," Think, "That person sanctifies me.”" St. (St. Josemaria Escriva.)

Mass Intentions: Saturday February 26; @4 PM – for the eternal rest of Frankie Battaglia, Rob O'Connor, and Daniel Beebe; Sunday 9:00 AM, for the People of the Parish: 11:00 AM. Bernadette; For Peace in Ukraine and the World.

The mass on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd will be at 10AM in the church and to avoid physical touching instead of marking the ashes on the forehead, ashes will be sprinkled on the head. Thank you for your cooperation and please do not forget that it is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Every Friday in Lent is abstinence from meat day. Lent has two major purposes: it recalls or prepares for Baptism and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of March: "For the Christian response to bioethical challenges: We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges, may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Attention parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation, our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 12th at 10AM, to be followed by a "Practice Confession" by the children. The first Reconciliation date is Saturday, March 26th at 3:00 PM. First Communion will be on Sunday, June 19th, the Feast of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The catechism sessions in preparation for first Communion will be announced soon. Thanks and God bless.

Tax receipts for 2021 are available for pick-up at the entrance to the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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