

MARCH 13TH, 2022 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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, Cory Wanjon and Maureen OGrady

Those who are deceased especially:

John Paquette

THIS Week's MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL
WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM, THURSDAY: 10:00 AM,

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK
FRIDAY: 5:00 PM, Followed by Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY : 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)
For parents and children preparing for
First Reconciliation and First Communion

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM
For Peace in the World, especially Ukraine

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – MARCH 13TH, 2022

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

Let us use the entrance antiphon of the Sunday from the Book of Psalm (24: 6, 2. 22), "Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress". Let us pray and meditate these verses of the psalm during this season of Lent for this is the season that we remember the great mercy and compassion of our God, allowing his only begotten Son to suffer and die to save us from our sins. As we are almost navigating in this post pandemic time, let us lift our hearts and hands to God to thank him for his loving care and protection from this Virus. Let us also pray for those who died and those who are left behind that God will grant eternal peace and happiness to those who died and faith and strength to those who lost a loved one.

In this second Sunday of Lent, God in the first reading had chosen Abram to be the father of a great and numerous nations. A covenant was sealed by the blood of the sacrificial animals and birds. Although we are not part of the chosen people of God Israel but through the sacrament of baptism, we have become adopted children of God and so heirs of his kingdom. The point here is that through faith in God and of his Son Jesus we become children of God and as I mentioned that the 40 days in Lent is a preparation for those who wish to receive the sacrament of Baptism and for the baptized, a time to prepare for the renewal of the baptismal promises at Easter Vigil. Therefore, let us continue our 40 days of Lenten journey with the Jesus with the three Lenten actions of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

In the second reading, St. Paul wrote reminding us all that we are citizens of heaven as we have shared the life of the heavenly Adam, who is Jesus; we have to be aware that since we still have the nature of the first Adam from dust, we continue to struggle with temptations of the worldly desires and he said, "Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is their shame, their minds are set on earthly things." It is only through the cross of the Lord Jesus that we can transform our human nature into the body of his glory.

Cont'd/

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The gospel is the Transfiguration event from St. Luke. Many are wondering why is it that the glorious transfiguration is placed in one of the Sundays in Lent, since it is supposed to be a time that we journey with Jesus' suffering. Let us recall that this transfiguration event is placed right after Peter's confession of faith that Jesus is the Messiah. After Peter's confession of faith, Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone. He also told them the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. Indeed, the transfiguration event was meant to be a booster shot to his followers to prepare them of his coming, suffering and dying. He had to show them what would happen after Good Friday.

Jesus wanted to have the approval from his Father, so he went to the mountain to pray with three of his disciples; Peter who confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, James and John the sons of Zebedee who asked for a special place in the coming kingdom. Indeed, they saw Jesus in his glory talking to Moses and Elijah, who represented the Law and the Prophets; as if telling Jesus to go ahead in order to fulfill what was written in the Law and foretold by the prophets and of course the voice of the Father telling them, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him". Since everything had been revealed, Jesus was ready to face undergo his passion of suffering, dying and rising again. As we try to continue our Lenten journey, occasionally let us go to our own mountain, a place of quiet and encounter and ask God to strengthen us that we will be able to fight all the three temptations of Jesus that are always present in our life; especially temptations of power, wealth and prestige. We know we can never fight temptations using our own power only, but we can fight them through the help of God, by applying the three Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Make prayer the steering wheel of life, fast not only on foods and drinks but also on words and deeds that are not beneficial for others, and give generously to those who are in need especially to the victims of greed in the world, that people suffer because others do not mind the plight of the people especially the indigenous people, and they do not care of what will happen to the earth our common home. The Development and Peace theme for this year is, "People and Planet First."

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: "Remember that the Christian life is one of action, not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well." (St. Vincent Pallotti)

Mass Intentions: Saturday March 12 @ 4 PM, for the people of the Parish; Sunday 9:00 AM, for the parents and children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Sunday 11:00 AM at St. Bernadette, for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine.

I give praise and thanks to God and to Bishop Dan for giving me permission to take my short vacation to the Philippines, from April 20th to May 27th. I am also grateful to the priests who willingly accepted the task of covering my weekend schedules. As I mentioned that we too have to do something to let them feel our hospitality. As we know that Saturday mass is at 4:00PM and we don't want these priests to go home hungry. Would there be hearts and homes that will open their doors for them to have a home cook dinner or a restaurant setting is also good. I will try to put up a sign-up sheet for you to pick up the date. Let us also pray that the other priest will be able to get his driver's license before Easter otherwise, I have to request somebody to pick him up in Bowmanville on Saturday afternoon, he will stay overnight in the rectory, and somebody has to drive him to Nestleton on Sunday morning and I can ask somebody from Nestleton to drive him back.

Attention parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion The first Reconciliation date is Saturday March 26 at 3:00 PM, and the First Communion date 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.

Pray for the sick: Erica Perk, Fr. Peter Conlin, Rita Lockhart, Augustine Sheppard, John Miron, Cory Wanjon, Maureen O'Grady

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

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