

MARCH 20TH, 2022 – THIRD 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, Vern Menzie Fr. Clare Hickson, Rita Lockhart,
Augustine Shepard, Cory Wanjon, Maureen O'Grady

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 the eternal rest of John Paquette

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 20TH, 2022

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

In this season of Lent let us use Psalm 16, as our greeting: "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." It is indeed an appropriate one as we continue our Lenten and almost post pandemic journey. Let us continue praying, that God will guard and protect us from all harm of mind, body, and spirit. It is not yet time to be complacent but let us still be vigilant of everything that might harm us. Two years ago, we started Lent with a different scenario of closing the doors of our churches and now we are trying to reopen it with faith and hope that we are almost at the end of the dark tunnel of the pandemic.

Last weekend, he heard the voice of God the Father affirming that Jesus is his Son and that we should listen to him. Jesus is asking us to seek first his kingdom, and everything will be given to us. Last Thursday we had our deanery meeting and one of the things mentioned was, "When will the Church lift the 'Sunday' obligation exemption and do we think that people will be comfortable enough to be back to our weekend masses. The answer was that we must wait for the proclamation of the Ontario Bishops. But for now, let us continue to pray for those who had some health issues that hindered them from coming back to church.

This weekend, we hear from the Book of Exodus, how God revealed to Moses his name, "I AM WHO I AM," through a burning bush and how He commissioned him to save the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The God who made a covenant with their fathers had revealed himself and ready to fulfill his promise of salvation. Moses' first task was to remind the children of Israel, "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." We know the story of Moses since childhood how he was spared from being killed, to his escaped from Egypt and now he was sent back to save them from slavery. Cont'd /

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If we read more the Book of Exodus, we learn how Moses struggled to convince the people of Israel and much more how to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. We also learn how the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before entering the Land of Promise, a land flowing with milk and honey. Our forty days in Lent is equivalent to the forty years in the desert that the people of Israel had to be purified before they enter the Promised Land. We are also given 40 days of Lent to purify ourselves before we can worthily celebrate the Paschal mystery of our Lord Jesus and before we can renew our baptismal promises, the covenant we made with God during our baptism that our parents and godparents made on our behalf; if we were baptized as infants, when the minister asked if we reject Satan's empty promises and works and if we believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and if we believe in the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Our parents and godparents responded yes on our behalf and as an adult we are now renewing them ourselves during the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday masses.

St. Paul in the second reading reminded the people of Corinth about the Israelites' journey and compared their passing through the water as a baptism and then the process of purification followed. God had provided them of all what they needed like food and drink. The journey in the wilderness was a test for those who remained faithful and those who were doubtful of God so that those who would occupy the land are the worthy Israelites although we know that even if they were in the Promised Land, when they were blessed with the good things in life, many times they had forgotten the God who provided them with all their blessings.

The gospel is telling us that we have a God who always give us another chance in life as pictured by the 'fruitless' fig tree that the owner told the gardener to cut it down because it is just wasting the soil. The gardener pleaded that it would be given a chance and the story ended without telling us that the tree bore fruit the following year or not. The lesson here is that every day is another chance given to us by God and that we should respond to God's bountiful goodness and mercy by being good and merciful with others also. Let us remember the three Cs in life, the Choice, the Chance, and the Change. Since we are given the Chance, let us make a Choice to Change our lives in preparation for the day that we come face to face with our Creator and our Redeemer.

Let us give praise and thanks to God for his never-ending protection in this difficult time. Let us also pray for peace in the world especially between Ukraine and Russia. Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine on the Feast of the Annunciation of Mary on Friday March 25th. We have mass at 5:00PM in the church followed by the Station of the Cross from the perspective of Mary the Mother of Jesus. Try to use this prayer daily until the 25th of March.

PRAYER

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

Quote of the week: "The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrificing and with extreme effort."
(St. Pius of Pietrelcina, 'Padre Pio')

Mass Intentions: Saturday March 19 @ 4 PM – for the people of the Parish; Sunday 9:00 AM, for the eternal rest of John Paquette and 11:00 AM. @ St. Bernadette, for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine.

Thank you for those who responded to welcome the visiting priests to their home those priests who will be covering my week-end schedule while I will be on my vacation. I think I don't need to publish a blank sheet for you to sign up, and I am confident that you will not say no, if in case I will ask you. Please, pray for my safe trip and I will surely remember you in my prayers and masses whenever I will have the chance to celebrate mass.

Attention parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion. The date for the first Reconciliation would be on Saturday March 26 and since not all were able to come last Saturday's practice, I hope parents are able to practice them at home and if we can start the reconciliation earlier, at 2:00PM, just in case we need a little rehearsal. The schedule for first Communion will be on 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.

Prayer for the sick: Erica Perk, Vern Menzie, Fr. Clare Hickson, Rita Lockhart, Augustine Sheppard, 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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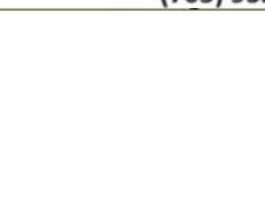
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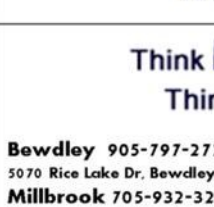
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