

MARCH 6TH, 2022- FIRST 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, Pacita Meneses, Cory Wanjon

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 Peace in Ukraine

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM
For the success of the journey of truth and reconciliation
between the Church and the Indigenous people of Canada.

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY – MARCH 6TH, 2022

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

Let us use psalm 54 as our greetings for this weekend; "When I cried to the Lord, he heard my voice; he rescued me from those who attack me. Entrust your cares to the Lord, and he will support you." As we are now starting to walk away from the dark tunnel of the pandemic, let us be reminded to look back once in a while and to give thanks to the Lord for keeping us safe and healthy during the difficult time, and let us remember those who had lost loved one and we continue to pray for them that God in his love and mercy had admitted them in his heavenly kingdom, and for all those who had remained fearful let us pray that God will continue to protect them from all harm of mind body and soul. For us who are blessed with faith and courage to continue the journey despite the many dangers, let us continue to follow all the health protocols that are still required so that one day, we can joyfully sing to the Lord, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad." In this season of Lent God is asking us to humble ourselves and turn to the Lord with all our heart and mind that as Prophet Joel reminded us on Ash Wednesday's first reading, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."

Although, the whole pandemic journey seemed long and had negative impact but we still get some lessons to learn thus it could also be as a blessing in many ways. Some family members might have felt abandoned, due to the restrictions of physical presence, but due to the modern media many were still able to reach out virtually, and it is also true with our in person mass attendance that at least we were nourished by the Word of God and nourished spiritually through spiritual communion through the live stream masses from many churches around the world. With less time to move around, we had more time spent with the Lord in prayers and spiritual activities like reading the Scripture and doing our devotional prayers like the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. Because of social media, so many prayer groups were formed during the pandemic, people all over the world, organized cenacle prayer groups, prayer warriors and listened to spiritual talks from our spiritual leaders.

Cont'd/

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My hopes and prayers are that we continue to do these things, especially in this season of Lent, because it is a way of our returning to the Lord with all our hearts mind and spirit.

After we have examined our hearts from the past Sunday's readings, now we enter the Holy season of Lent. It is a forty-day journey with Jesus who after his Baptism in the Jordan was led by the spirit to the wilderness as a way of purifying his intentions of his passion of suffering, dying and rising again from the dead in fulfillment of the Father's plan to save all of humanity. We too are called to undergo purification so that our Lenten journey would be a journey to holiness as this is the call of Jesus to be holy as our heavenly Father is holy. Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent and it is forty days until Resurrection day. At the start of Lent, the liturgy of the distribution of ashes reminded us of our own mortality that we are dust and unto dust we shall all return, and it also reminded us that we need to repent and believe in the Gospel.

There are three important components in Lent - Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Prophet Joel of last Wednesday's first reading mentioned about God's message, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning rend your hearts and not your clothing." Prayer is said to be the lifting of the soul and mind to God, and so this Lent try to lift your whole self to God. upon waking up the first act should be prayer, thank the Lord for another day and ask the Lord to give us strength to accomplish our plans for the day, pray before and after meals, spend some time to read the scripture or listen to the scripture during masses available to us on vision TV at 8:00 AM, and many other channels, try to do it before listening to the news. Also pray in the evening before bed, thank the Lord for the day and have a little examination of conscience of what transpired during the day.

The mass as the highest form of prayer, during Lent try to go another mile, try to attend the weekday masses. It is indeed a very good source of spiritual nourishment. The second component is 'Fasting', denying oneself of some pleasures in life, like food, drinks; we do this to purify ourselves and to feel with those who are less privileged in the world. With the abundance of food and drinks here in our country, it is hard to understand what it would be like in places where there is poverty or even the life in the war-torn countries. Fasting is a sacrifice, so in Lent we try to sacrifice not only for our own good as fasting is good for our health, but it is also directed for others. What we saved out of our fasting is to be given to those who are in need, that is why the Development and Peace program of the Church is given attention in Lent with the hope that we share the savings from our fasting and other activities, which brings us to the third component of Lent, 'Almsgiving'.

In the first readings this Sunday, Moses reminded the people of their need to pray, first by acknowledging who they were and what God had done to them, he said, "You shall sit it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God." The gospel is about the temptations of Jesus that just before he started his public ministry. Satan was trying to divert the plan of God by offering Jesus the easy way. The temptations were of three forms, 'Power' by making the stones into bread to satisfy Jesus' hunger, then the temptation of 'Wealth', by offering all of what is in the world and the temptation of 'Prestige and Honor' by showing to people that he really is the Son of God when from the jumping from the pinnacle the angels will catch him to avoid being hurt. Jesus was prepared to face all these temptations, remember he fasted and prayed for forty days. Let us also recall the forty years journey of the chosen people of Israel in the desert as a process of purification so that they will enter the Promised Land worthily. During the season of Lent, we are also called to fast and pray for forty days to purify ourselves towards the Easter celebration. Let us try to go another mile in our spiritual journey, pray more, fast more often, and give generously to our Development and Peace collection. ...thank you and God bless....fr. tony.

Quote of the week: "It would be considered a theft on our part if we didn't give to someone in greater need than we are." (St. Francis of Assisi).

Mass Intentions: Saturday - March 11, 4:00 PM – For the people of the Parish, Sunday 9:00 AM – For Peace in Ukraine, 11:00 AM – for the success of the journey of truth and reconciliation between the Church and the indigenous people of Canada.

Reminder: Attention parents and guardians: On Saturday, March 12 @ 10:00 AM, children preparing for first confession will be having their last session to be followed by a confession practice. It is my hope and prayer that our children are now learning the basic prayers as it is one of the requirements for First Reconciliation.

On the Saturday, March 19th, the CWMC will meet in the church hall. We start the day with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 9:00 AM, especially it is the feast of St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Every Friday in Lent the church door is open for those who would like to devote some time in prayer and other Lenten devotion. It is also a day for personal reconciliation, just phone the parish office ahead of time.

Thank you for our artist who made the Development and Peace Poster. Lenten calendars of Development and Peace are available near the poster and a collection container is provided for our contribution (any change from your groceries) for the Development and Peace Share Lent collection. Thank you.....fr. tony

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

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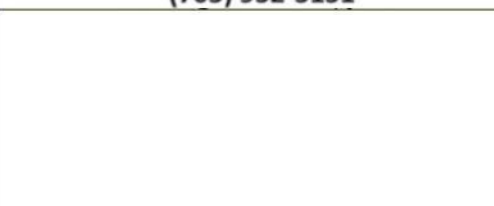
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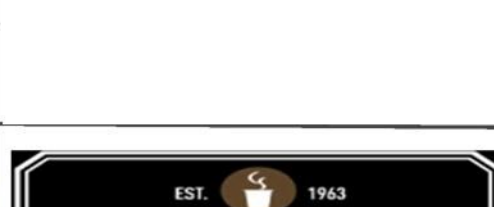
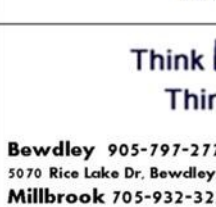
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