

DECEMBER 4TH, 2022 — SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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THIS Week's MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY: 5:00 PM,

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 AM*

*(1st Friday of the month, mass will be at the Church)

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY : 9:00 AM

Birthday intention—Dorothy More

ST. BERNADETTE , NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

For Peace in the World

PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:

Lois Kelly, Rita Lockhart, John Miron, Isabel O'Gorman,
Joslyn, and Mariana Moniz.

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY — DECEMBER 4TH, 2022

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

Let me use part of the second reading this weekend from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans as my greeting to you; "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Prophet Isaiah proclaimed this message of harmony to the people of God during his time when they were losing hope in the foreign land during their exile and these words are addressed to us in this present age who are also experiencing difficulties due to this pandemic, the threat of war, climate change causing natural calamities and the Lord Jesus said that, "all these things will take first, but the end will not follow immediately." Jesus made this statement more than two thousand years ago and so let us re direct our attention from the end of the world to the end of our own time. Our journey is always getting closer to that moment when God will come to us and Jesus said, "Be watchful and ready for you do not know the time and the hour, be on guard."

In this second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of peace, that the Messiah will come to restore the lost glory of Paradise as Prophet Isaiah mentioned about when all of creation shall live in harmony. This is also the mission of Jesus when he came into the world to bring reconciliation between God and creation. The Angel's message to the world during the birth of the Messiah is "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all peoples on earth." Before this peace can be attained, Jesus had to bring 'fire and division' to purify the peace that God wants, the peace that is born from justice and love and not the peace in the cemetery.

The gospel narrates to us the days of John the Baptist, the messenger who came to prepare the way of the Lord. As a priest like his father Zechariah, he did not follow the traditional way of being in the temple, but he was in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming and his message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." He quoted prophet Isaiah of who he was, "The voice crying out in the wilderness."

Cont'd /over

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

He did not also follow the traditional way of wearing a priestly robe, but he became a sign of contradiction to the usual way of life of being priest during his time, a beautiful introduction of the coming Messiah who would not be following the expectation of the religious leaders but a Messiah born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes adored by shepherds and foreign dignitaries represented by the three wise men from the east. From these we are looking to a saviour who came to save the whole of humanity and not just the chosen people of Israel. Since Jesus is the reason of the season let us put Him in Christmas and avoid the commercialization aspect that people in the world are rapidly adapting during this season. Try to recycle things like decorations, even recycle gifts that you have not used and can be useful for others. Let us try to avoid the throw-away society and let us be a society concerned about the future of the planet our common home. Another aspect that we have to remember this Christmas is our gift to Jesus the celebrant of the day. We know He doesn't need any material gifts, but we know he needs our love and therefore let us love those whom he loves, the poor, the needy, and the least in our society. There are toy and food drives going on in our community so let us try to be generous this Christmas season, let us try to fill up our food bank containers and if possible, feed those who we know have no family to go this season because Christmas is about families, Jesus from the heavenly family came to earth to become part of the human family.

Take care, stay safe this Advent season and God bless.....fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."
(St. Teresa of Calcutta.)

The Pope's special intention for the month of December – "Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Mass Intentions: Saturday – Dec. 3rd @ 4:00 PM – For the People of the Parish - Sunday Dec. 4th @ 9:00 AM – Birthday intentions for Dorothy More, and 11:00 AM @ St. Bernadette in Nestleton - For Peace in the world. Please, take note that the Wednesday 5:30 PM mass is now at 5:00 PM. The Centennial Place mass scheduled for the 15th will be moved closer to Christmas on December 22 @ 11:00 AM. Please, if you have some relatives and friends residing there, join me by attending that mass and let us cheer them up this Christmas.

Christmas Masses:

Saturday – December 24th @ 4:00 PM, for families with children; and @ 10:00 PM –everyone.
Also 7:00 PM @ St. Bernadette's in Nestleton. Sunday - Christmas Day 10:00 AM @ St. Thomas More.

New Years - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and Holy Day of Obligation.

Saturday, December 31st @ 4:00 PM - Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Thanksgiving prayers (Holy Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy) end with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please, come and let us join together in thanking God for all the blessings of 2022 and ask God for a blessed and bountiful year 2023.

Sunday January 1st @ 9:00 AM - St. Thomas More and 11:00 AM - St. Bernadette, Nestleton.

Calling all children especially those who had received first communion to come and join the Parish Family Christmas Pot-luck on the 11th of December at 4:30 PM. We need children for our little Christmas play. Thank you.

Thank you to the St. Thomas More CWMC for all the planning and hard work with our parish bazaar. Also, many thanks to all the parishioners who made donations to the bazaar. Please share with family and friends to help make it a great success by attending on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Millbrook Legion - 9 to 1:30 pm. Lunch is available.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, December 4 will be Coffee Sunday following 9 AM mass, with some left over items from the bazaar for sale.
- Sunday, December 11th, Parish Family Christmas Potluck - 4:30 pm start. Please join us and bring your favourite dish, your plates and utensils. Tea, coffee and juice will be provided.

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