

# DECEMBER 26TH, 2021 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## 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, Hermie Jandristis

**THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE**  
**ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL**  
WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM THURSDAY: 10:00 AM  
FRIDAY: (NEW YEAR'S EVE.) 4PM

**SATURDAY: NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
11:00AM— ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

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**ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK**  
SUNDAY DEC. 26: 9:00 AM  
For the People of the Parish

**ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON**  
SUNDAY: DEC. 26: 11:00 AM  
For Family, friends & benefactors

## FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY - DECEMBER 26TH, 2021

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette, As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I greet you and your family since we are still in Christmas; "May you and your family have a blessed and safe Christmas as we continue to navigate in this difficult time but we also know that our Lord Jesus came to earth to rescue us from all harm and save us from all things that separate us from him." Thank you for your understanding and patience as we celebrated Christmas masses." It was indeed a relief for me that parishioners understood the situation and they were keeping safe by following all the health protocols. Let us pray a little harder that this pandemic will end soon and that God will send His Angels and the Saints to intercede for us; especially let us call on our heavenly Mother Mary by praying devotedly the Holy Rosary. Let us continue to enjoy the beauty of Christmas as it has not ended on the 25th of December but continues on until the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord and in some cultures even up to the Presentation of the Lord which is on the 2nd of February. Some cultures would count the twelve days of Christmas before dismantling their decorations. It is good to continue the feeling of Christmas where we feel the closeness of the family when we get together for a special Christmas dinner because Christmas is about family, remembering the time when the Son of God from the heavenly family humbled himself and became part of the human family.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph. The readings are all about family, the first reading told the story about the family of Elkanah and Hannah who offered their son Samuel to the Lord. The second reading from the letter of St. John mentioned about us being called children of God because through Jesus who came to us as a brother who taught us the love that we should have for one another.

Cont'd..../

The gospel of St. Luke narrated about the Holy Family's yearly attendance in Jerusalem for the Passover festival. The child Jesus remained in the Temple without the knowledge of his parents.

The finding of the Child Jesus is the fifth joyful mystery. The event became a mystery to Mary and Joseph that their young Son came up with a puzzling response to his mother's words, "Child why have you treated us like this? Look your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said in response, "Why are you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Using the modern expression from the young generation, maybe Mary said in reply, "Okay whatever that means, let us just go home." The scripture said, "Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart."

Now let us focus to our own family. Do you have a special yearly tradition that would connect the whole family to God, like the Holy Family's yearly attendance to the Passover festival in Jerusalem? I know most of our families have a yearly tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is my hope and prayers that in our family traditions we should not forget the center of these traditions. For example, Thanksgiving it is not the turkey, but the source of all the blessings who is God and of course Christmas is Christ the reason of the season. The best tradition that a family can create is the Prayer tradition keeping the family together in offering the highest form of prayer which is the Eucharistic celebrations.

I can see that this is clearly manifested because most of our families are gathered together to attend the Christmas mass. This year there is a little feeling of sadness because due to this pandemic, we are limited to celebrate fully our yearly tradition. Some families were hindered to come due to the limit restrictions and I feel sorry for them. It is again my hope and prayers that families will be creative to create an atmosphere that even we cannot be at church for Christmas Eve masses but we can still instill the spirit of the night by reading the Christmas story when the family get together for the Christmas celebration. Traditions are religious beliefs and actions handed down from one generation to the next and it is a way of teaching the importance of our faith. Let us not forget that the family is the seed-bed of any vocations in life and especially vocations to serve God.

Quote of the week; "The teacher of children became himself a child among children, that he might instruct the unwise. The Bread of heaven came down to earth to feed the hungry." - St Cyril of Jerusalem.

Pope's prayer intention for January: "We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family."

Mass Intention:

Saturday December 25, No mass at 4PM in Millbrook.

Sunday: December 26, @ 9AM, in Millbrook: For the people of the Parish, and 11AM in Nestleton –For Family, friends and benefactors.

Please Note: We are running out of mass intentions, please remember your loved ones and help the Priests Pension Fund.

Please let us continue praying the Holy Rosary before mass we continue to ask our Heavenly Mother Mary to intercede for us in this difficult time.

God bless. Fr. Tony

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

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