



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 19, 2022

1. PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE.
2. **Effective on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022, the obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored.** Regular attendance at Mass is what fulfills God's commandment to "Keep holy the Sabbath Day".
3. Splendor of Our Faith with Fr. Blake Britton Session 12, the final session in the series: Neo-Gothic/Vatican II (Humanities/Art) will be at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Lakeland July 12, 2022 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The livestream for the session at St. Anthony will be on their website. Fr. Blake has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. Information on purchasing the book can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>.
4. **Synod 2021 – 2023.** Pope Francis has asked us to be a people of "synodality" for the next two years beginning with Advent. Synodality is described as a journeying together, a time to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father said there are three words that characterize the synod: **encounter**, to draw near and be fully present to one another; **listen**, to hear one another; **discern**, let the Holy Spirit guide us. He wants everyone to listen to the Holy Spirit and each other to build a better relationship with the Lord. His goal is that we encounter one another, we listen to the heart, and we understand how the Spirit is asking us to move forward.
5. **Polk County Catholic Singles – Social Group:** If you are single, a widow, a widower or divorced person over 55, you are invited. The group attends Mass twice a month at various churches in Polk County and has dinner afterward at a predetermined restaurant. For further information, call Joanne 863-967-0785 or Tony 570-814-7653.

6. The bulletin can be found on our website by clicking on the button “Bulletins” or by signing up for the bulletin to be delivered to you weekly by email at www.jspaluch.com/subscribe. You only need to provide your email address and first name. We explored options with J.S. Paluch and other companies, and none of them were able to provide a bulletin at no cost to us.
7. The *Bible in a Year* Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes two or three scripture readings and a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz. To sign up for this series, go to <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>. A Spanish version is also available on the website ascensionpress.com.
8. To subscribe to Bishop John Noonan’s E-Scroll with news from the Diocese of Orlando <https://www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/>. You only have to provide your name and email address.
9. Bishop Robert Barron, an author, speaker, theologian and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry, is producing a new Bible series. Volume I focuses on the Gospels and can be ordered at <https://wordonfire.org/bible>. Volume II, Acts, Letters, and Revelation is to be released in 2022. There will be a total of seven volumes. If you would like to subscribe to Bishop Barron’s newsletter, go to <https://wordonfire.org/#newsletter> and just provide your email address.
10. On Sunday, June 19, there will be two celebrations. One is Father’s Day. There are envelopes in the church pews if you wish to have a special father remembered in Masses on June 19, 20 and 21. June 19, is also Corpus Christi Sunday, and there will be a Eucharistic Procession for a few blocks around the city following the 10:30 am Mass. Please plan to join us for this special celebration.

Happy Father’s Day!

Catholic Trivia

What are the “floral carpets” of Corpus Christi?

In the little village of Spycimierz in central Poland, for the feast of Corpus Christi, traditionally celebrated in Europe on Thursday, but usually celebrated in the US this Sunday, you would be greeted by a most unusual sight.

The villagers—all of them, it seems!—are as busy as worker ants, creating something on the road. They are arranging colorful flowers in various elaborate patterns in a path that seems like it stretches on forever down the street. All kinds of beautiful sacred images and designs come to life.



What’s it all about? The villagers are carrying on a tradition that has been going on for generations in their town. They are creating a floral pathway for the Corpus Christi procession that will take place after Mass, when Our Lord in the monstrance will be carried throughout the town, in joy and festivity.

Spycimierz is particularly known for this tradition, but it is hardly alone in the world. You can find stunning floral carpets elsewhere in Poland, in Italy, in Spain, in South America. Some parishes here in the US have even taken up this tradition!

The artwork will be destroyed as many feet tread over them during the procession, but it’s unlikely anyone thinks of it as a waste. These works, and the labor they require, are humble gifts for Our Lord, Who has given us a gift beyond anything we can hope to repay in the Blessed Sacrament. The beautiful carpets are a small reminder of Who is passing by that day—the same Person Who humbly dwells daily in our churches, our monstrances, in our own unworthy selves in Holy Communion.

What a gift!

O’Cebreiro, located in a hilly region of northwest, Spain is the site of a Eucharistic Miracle. One icy winter in 1300, a Benedictine priest was due to celebrate the sacred Mass in a chapel beside the church of the convent of O’Cebreiro. On that miserable day of unceasing snow and unbearably freezing wind, he thought, perhaps even hoped, that no one would dare show up for Mass, but he was wrong. A farmer by the name of Juan Santín arrived to attend Mass. The priest did not wish to celebrate Mass that day; his faith was weak and he no longer believed in the Real Presence of Jesus, but Jesus was about to change the heart of this priest. The priest reluctantly offered the Mass, but in his heart he despised the farmer’s faith and sacrifice of good will. As the priest professed the words of consecration, the Host immediately changed into real flesh and the wine changed into real blood. The Blood then overflowed the chalice and stained the corporal.

At that very moment, it seemed that even the head of the wooden statue of the Madonna was leaning in adoration. The people today call her the “Madonna of the Sacred Miracle”. The Lord had wanted to open the eyes of the incredulous priest who had doubted and to compensate the farmer for his great devotion. For almost two hundred years the Host-changed-to-Flesh was left on the paten until Queen Isabella learned about the miracle when she passed through O’Cebreiro while on pilgrimage in Santiago de Compostela. The queen immediately had a precious crystal shrine custom-made to hold the miraculous Host, the chalice and the paten, which to this day, can be admired in this church. Every year on the feast days of Corpus Christi, August 15th, and September 8th, the relics are taken in procession along with the Madonna. Among the most documented testimonials of the miracle are the bull of Pope Innocent VIII of 1487, that of Pope Alexander VI of 1496, and an account by Father Yepes.



Prayer for My Husband (For Father's Day or any day)

Father in Heaven, I have lost my spouse,
My favorite friend, my treasure in the House.

He was my ALL, my future here,
My Joy, my Life, my Pride so Dear.

I pray to You in bitter sorrow:
Give him Lord, a sweet tomorrow.
To me he was, You know the best,
Please grant him Lord, Eternal Rest.