



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 11, 18 & 25 2022

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE.**
2. **As of 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". Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist.
3. Fr. Blake Britton in our Diocese has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. If you would like to purchase the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>. This book recently won 1st place as the best work by a first-time author and 2nd place overall as one of the popular presentations of the Catholic Faith for 2022 at the Catholic Media Association national book awards.
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. If you know anyone who has internet but does not know how to find the website, please have them call the office, and we will teach them. If you know someone who does not have internet, call the office, and we will print copies for them.
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 was 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.



See next page.

It's almost the 41st anniversary of the launch of EWTN! In 1981, Mother Mary Angelica — after founding the Eternal Word Television Network with no broadcasting experience, only \$200, and a lot of faith in God — "flipped the switch" and broadcast EWTN's first program.

It brings us joy to look back on the past 41 years of EWTN and see how the faith of one courageous cloistered nun led to the world's largest religious media Network. Mother Angelica once said, "This whole Network is built on trust." Through the years of EWTN, we've been able to see just how much God can do when we place our trust in Him completely.

Mother Angelica often urged viewers to "keep us between your gas and electric bill," to remember to support the life-giving programming of EWTN faithfully each month. In celebration of the 41st Anniversary of EWTN's launch, we're looking for 1,000 new monthly donors to step forward on or before midnight on August 15th to be able to reach people around the world with the *beauty, truth, and goodness* of Christ for many more years to come.

Monthly gifts provide a constant and dependable source of vital funding so that we can create more programs for more people and proclaim the Gospel message to the nations.

Will you help us reach our goal today of 1,000 new monthly donors who commit to giving \$41 a month in honor of the 41st anniversary of EWTN's launch?

Please [visit our secure website](#) to become a monthly donor today. With your gift, you will share *beauty, truth, and goodness* with a world longing for Christ! If you can't commit to a monthly gift, consider giving a one-time gift.



Catholic Trivia 1

What are Angels? Angels are ministering spirits created by God. They are created to minister His Will, principally here on earth. They are not, as many misunderstand, people who have passed on to eternal life. The English word “angel” comes from the Greek word *ángelos*, which means messenger. The Old Testament prophet Malachi took his name from that Greek word. He was himself a messenger who prophesied about the coming of “the messenger of the Covenant,” Jesus Christ (Mal 3).

Although the word angel in the Bible nearly always applies to heavenly beings, it can occasionally apply to human messengers. Perhaps therein lies the confusion. Malachi himself said a priest was a messenger of the Lord of Hosts (Mal 2:7), and in the Book of Revelation the elders of the seven churches of Asia were called angels. But when we meet messengers doing supernatural things, there is no doubt they are heavenly beings – God’s messengers, working for Him and for the ultimate benefit of mankind.

In Christian and Jewish belief, angels are spirits created by God, before human beings, to regulate the order of the world and to serve as messengers. Their mission to human beings always has something to do with God’s plan of salvation.

The personification always maintains the sovereignty of God and is always understood that God is intervening in human affairs. The same is true of the angels’ visits in the dream of St. Joseph, the angels who assist Christ after the temptations in the desert, and the angels at the tomb.

Their division into classes was a medieval development, and really does not add anything to our appreciation of angels. Suffice it to say that a few of the angels have the title of “archangel” because they delivered messages of supreme importance, as with Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. Through the angels, we understand the presence, pure spirits, messengers of God and it has been a traditional teaching that these spirits are our helpers. “Under their constant care, we are kept free from danger in this life” and brought “to the joy of eternal life.”

By Father Stephen Baumann, retired

Catholic Trivia 2

What are the different “classes” of relics? First class, second class, third class...what do these terms mean?

Relics of the saints are the most precious heirlooms of the Church. They are not simply historical mementos, but a means through which God has chosen to bestow great graces to those who venerate them.

When discussing relics, we often hear the terms “first-class,” “second-class,” and “third-class.” What do these terms mean? These “classes” are the categories into which the Church organizes her relics, based on each relic’s proximity to the saint in question.

First-class: This is the “highest” form of relic, and refers to a piece of the body of the saint—including bones, hair, etc. This class also includes relics of Christ’s Passion, such as pieces of the True Cross.



A first-class relic of Padre Pio – a piece of his hair

Second-class: These relics are items that belonged to or were used by the saint, such as clothing, books, and rosaries, or an instrument used in the torture or death of a martyr.

Third-class: These are items—such as a rosary, piece of cloth, or prayer card—that have been touched to a first- or second-class relic.

Catholic Trivia 3

Elvis recorded “Miracle of The Rosary” for his 1972 album *Elvis Now!*, The Rosary song is the LP’s second title. The lyrics couldn’t be any more devout:

*Oh Blessed Mother we pray to Thee
Thanks for the miracle of Your Rosary
Only You can hold back
Your Holy Son’s hand
Long enough for the whole world to understand
Hail Mary full of grace
The Lord is with Thee
Blessed are thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus
Oh Holy Mary dear Mother of God
Please pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death
And give thanks once again
For the miracle of Your Rosary*

A powerful Catholic statement by a man who knew little about Catholicism, growing up in a region where the Church of Rome is in a tiny minority, and adhering to as a denomination whose relationship with Catholicism is complicated. And yet, here Elvis is, singing about the Rosary – and not on some obscure gospel LP but on a gold-selling pop album.

And it wasn’t the record company that had suggested the song: it was chosen by Presley himself – possibly as a favor for an old friend who had written it many years earlier.

A Miracle of the Rosary

The writer was Lee Denson, one of Elvis’ first friends after the Presley family moved from Tupelo, Mississippi to Memphis in 1948, when Elvis was 13. It was Lee, two years older, who taught Elvis his first guitar chords. Denson went on to have a career as a rockabilly singer, with some success but no hits. In 1957 he and Elvis played together on stage for the first and last time, at a charity concert.

In 1961 Denson had a rare get-together with his old friend, during which he played “Miracle of The Rosary”, which he had recorded the previous year, to Elvis. They never met again. It took Presley ten years before he recorded the song; what prompted him to do it at that

time seems unknown. In the interim, Denson had recorded the song himself. Now, in 1971, Elvis associate Red West who died in July of 1971, phoned Denson to announce that “Miracle of The Rosary” would be on Presley’s LP. Denson received royalties from the song for the rest of his life.

The kicker is: Lee Denson was the son of a minister at the Pentecostal church which the Presley family attended. In fact, while he always remained a believer, he was not a particularly good Christian – until one day in the late 1950s, Denson felt what he later described as “a powerful inner force” surging through his body. He and his wife Mary were unnerved by the experiences and somehow decided to pray the Rosary. The following day they went to Mass, and in short order converted to Catholicism. “Miracle of the Rosary” is a testament of that conversion.

Denson died on November 6, 2007 at the age of 75. His funeral Mass was celebrated in Memphis’ Catholic church of St Teresa. His remains were interred at the city’s Calvary Cemetery – on Elvis Presley Boulevard. On his gravestone a final message is engraved: “Thanks once again for the Miracle of the Rosary”.

