



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 22, 2023

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE.**
2. **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.
3. **Beginning 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.
4. **The *Catechism in a Year* Podcast is hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz.** In these short podcasts, Fr. Mike will guide you through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 episodes, providing explanation, insight, and encouragement along the way. Download your copy of the reading plan of The Catechism in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) at ascensionpress.com/
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The bulletin can be found on our website (stthomasbartow.org) 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. To subscribe to get the bulletin emailed to you each week, after clicking on the above link, follow these steps: **Step 1.** Where it has “*Search By*”, select “*City*” from the dropdown box and enter “*Bartow*”, then click on the *Search* button. **Step 2.** Click on the green arrow to the left of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. **Step 3.** Enter your information. You are only required to provide your first name, your email address and confirm your email address. (The other information is optional.) and check the box “I am not a Robot”. **Step 4.** Click on the *Submit* button. The bulletin will be sent to you, usually on Saturday. If you want to see previous bulletins, you can view the last 5 bulletins by clicking on *previous bulletins*. The website “Bulletin” button will only show the most current bulletin and is usually updated on Wednesdays. 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.

8. 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.

Catholic Trivia

Meet the Priest-explorer who discovered the Mississippi River. Did you know that a Catholic priest was the first man to chart this vital transportation route? His name was Fr. Jacques Marquette. He was a humble French Jesuit working on the Canadian and North American Huron missions.

One day, a group of Illinois Indians approached Fr. Marquette and asked him to come and instruct their village in the Faith. During their conversation, the Illinois told the priest of a mighty river they had found. It was broad and it was swift. It was so long, they said, that they had not been able to journey to its end. There were tales of it emptying all the way out into the Gulf of California.

Fr. Marquette knew immediately that this river could be invaluable in helping the Jesuits reach more tribes and spread the Gospel. He wrote to his superiors and obtained permission to find and explore this mysterious river.



When Fr. Marquette heard of the river, he knew he had to explore it

In May of 1673, he and five companions embarked on their quest. A month of traveling later, their canoes slipped into the waters of the Mississippi River. For weeks, the small party was swept down the current. Fr. Marquette took notes and wrote descriptions in a journal.

When they reached the Arkansas River, they learned from Indians living there that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, an area controlled by the Spanish. After this, the French missionaries turned back and began their return to Canada.

Thanks to Fr. Jacques Marquette, America's greatest natural waterway was opened to travel, trading, and exploration. The Mississippi played an indispensable role in opening frontiers and building culture in young America.