



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 29, 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

Who is the patroness of the unborn? “Am I not here, who am your Mother?....Am I not your fountain of life?” That’s right—Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of unborn babies.

Before Spain brought the Faith to Mexico in the 16th century, the Aztec religion had formed a culture of death in the native Mexican peoples. The “gods” required human blood to atone for offending them and to ward off their wrath. War and slaughter were a central part of their lives.

When the Holy Virgin appeared to Juan Diego, carrying within her the unborn God-man, she brought a culture of life to Mexico. Where missionary efforts had met with little success, she brought about **9 million conversions** to the Catholic faith and the devout adoration of the only true God. Because of this apparition, she has been named Patroness of the Americas.



In our own times, we have seen the Culture of Death rise again in America. When the Supreme Court ruled in favor of *Roe vs. Wade*, it created a loophole which was quickly monopolized. Pro-abortionists cried out that abortion was now legal, and for the next fifty years life has been held as cheaply in our culture as it was in the Aztec religion.

The Patroness of the Americas, however, has triumphed. Last year, the Supreme Court ended the wholesale “legal” abortion torrent: the first step in restoring respect and gratitude for Life—a Culture of Life—to America.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn and of the Americas, will continue to lead us in the defense of Life. We just have to be faithful. As the battle for Life continues, take up *your* holy weapon and join in the fight. Pray the Rosary.

See next week’s Trivia for related information.