

Father Eugene Grytner, SDS
Office hrs Mon-Fri 9 am to 12 pm
1305 E. Mann Road Bartow, FL 33830

MASSES

**Daily at 8:30 am - No Mass on
Wednesday and Saturday morning.**

Saturday: Vigil Bartow: 5:00 pm

Sunday: Ft. Meade 8:00 am

Sunday: Bartow 10:30 am

Sacraments

Confessions: Half hour prior to masses.

Marriage preparation: Arrangements must be
made four months in advance.

Baptism: Last Sunday of the month.

Call Evelyn Rivera 863-370-4000
evecoultter@aol.com

Sick calls – Anytime

Communion for Sick and Home Bound

Call the Church Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Every

Sunday 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Monday 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Religious Education Administrator

Jessica Whitmer 863-602-3837

Religious Formation – Every Sunday

Sept thru May

Preschool thru 8th - Sun 9 am to 10:15 am

High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am

(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

Email: gloria121@verizon.net

Phone 863-533-8578

Fax 863- 533-5090

www.stthomasbartow.org

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!

Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orland



3rd Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023



Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 11	5:00 pm	+Don Slocum & family By Ann Slocum
Sun Mar 12	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 12	10:30 am	+Cecelia Bond Clouse By Theresa & George Cherry
Mon Mar 13	8:30 am	Carolina Brenton By a Friend
Tue Mar 14	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Mar 16	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 17	8:30 am	
Sat Mar 18	5:00 pm	+Frederick Coury By Kathleen Morris
Sun Mar 19	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 19	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Melvin Casey, Alan English, Rachel Gohlman, Delores Hart, Austin Heath, Zachary Heath, Ivette Hernandez, Jennifer Hoffer, Mark Jansen, Missy Jansen, Mark Jones, Gail Kautz, Bill Kjerrumgaard, Sara Long, Aaron Mills, Adam Mills, Zachary Mills, Scott Mize, Lacey Pate, , George Pizano, Karlee Severns, Richie Southwell, Gloria Stenger, Murphy Stidham, Debi Tuck, Laura Webb, +Herb & +Gloria Bagg-Mendez, +Ron Milinovich, +JT Bullock, +Charlie Fitzpatrick, +Paul Lusker, +Duane Dillingham, +Marcella Bagg

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests

Mar. 18, 1991 Rev. Paul Kajdan
 Mar. 20, 1982 Rev. Thomas Gross
 Mar. 22, 1972 Msgr. Martin Brendan Power
 Mar. 25, 1978 Rev. Sean Patrick Molloy

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

LECTORS	SME
3/11-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Ann Slocum	Toni Hoffer Evelyn Rivera
3/12-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Confirmandi	Maria Davila Kay LaClair
3/18-5:00 pm	
Pat Lowery Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Kathleen Morris
3/19-10:30 am	
Sara Long Confirmandi	Bill Leckie Pat Lowery

Saint Thomas Collection

2/26	Regular	\$2403.00
	Maintenance	571.97
	Ash Wednesday	750.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

2/26	Regular	462.00
	Maintenance	47.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services and World Mission Sunday (Propagation of the Faith.)

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Easter Flowers for the Church, please place your envelopes in either collection. Envelopes can be found in the pews.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2023

There is a drop box in the narthex for clean and gently used light-colored, long-sleeve, button down shirts (men and women S, M & L sizes).

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will meet immediately after Mass on Sunday, **March 12TH**.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE TIME!

Please return bottles filled with change, cash, checks and prayers. Make checks payable to Options for Women.

REASONS WHY I LOVE LENT

May we clothe our hearts with the light of Christ.

It may seem strange to say I love a season of repentance, but I look forward to Lent every year with great enthusiasm. It gives me time to reflect on the many rough edges of my soul and ask God to chisel away at them. Here's why this time of year means so much to me:

Lent is a purely Christ-centered season, which thankfully hasn't become tainted by consumerism. You don't see newspaper ads touting Lenten specials at the mall or after-Lent clearance sales, nor do stores feature Lenten gifts and cards.

I love the physical quality of Lent, which opens with a cross made of ashes upon our foreheads and the ominous proclamation that we are dust. Fridays include genuflecting and praying, as we walk spiritually with Christ during the Stations of the Cross. On Palm Sunday, we are given something tangible to remind us how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem. Then we have the washing of feet on Holy Thursday and that stirring moment on Good Friday, when we kneel to venerate the cross.

Each year, when I decide on my Lenten sacrifices, I realize how blessed I really am. In truth, I've never gone to bed hungry, and my pleasures are many, including ice cream, chocolates and wine. Then there are ordinary things many people in the world consider luxuries, such as hot showers, clean drinking water and air conditioning. Lent calls us to remember our less fortunate brothers and sisters and to dig a little deeper in our pockets to help them.

I love how nature moves in step with the season of Lent. As the days process toward Easter, the trees start flowering and daffodils push their buttery heads through the bleak earth. Nature's gradual awakening from the starkness of winter echoes our Lenten attempts to reject dark habits and clothe our hearts with the light of Christ.

Lent gives me a chance to create a do-it-yourself retreat at home. I try to spend time each day in silence, reading morning and afternoon prayers in the Liturgy of the Hours while sitting on the front steps, accompanied by robins gathering in the bird bath. Simple meals remind

me of monastery fare and help me remember the poor in our world.

Each year, I read Lenten classics such as *The Pain of Christ and the Sorrow of God* by Gerald Vann and *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Fulton Sheen. Vann reminds us that, during Lent, we're asked to "share in a particular way in the Passion of our Lord," by choosing love over selfishness. This reminder is worthy of being written down and posted on my refrigerator!

In the past, it was obvious who the Catholics were, because you could walk into their house on Fridays and detect the aroma of fried fish. At many parishes, the Knights of Columbus revive that tradition by serving fish dinners on Fridays during Lent.

Every Lent I read the Passion story in the four Gospels, poring over a few pages each night. These passages help me understand the meaning of sacrificial love. I am always stunned by the realization that no matter how many times I read these passages, they always reveal something completely new and remarkable, which I deeply need to hear.

I'd be stretching the truth if I said I love going to confession, but at least during Lent I can dispense with my usual excuses. After all, if I plan to clean the entire house to prepare for Easter, shouldn't I step into the confessional with the intention of asking God to cleanse my soul and praying he will "create in me a clean heart".

Finally, I usually do too much during Lent. I'll vow to stop online shopping, as well as cutting out desserts and wine. I'll promise the Lord to pray more, attend the Stations of Cross and give generously to the poor. But there's no question that, at times, I will fail, and fail miserably. Still, there's comfort in knowing our failures reveal how much we rely on the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. And at heart, that's what Lent is really about.

Lorraine V. Murray

