



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 19, 2023

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE.**

2. Our Parish bulletin will no longer be distributed by J. S. Paluch. It can be found weekly online by clicking on the Bulletin button on our website at www.stthomasbartow.org. A new button has been added that you can click to also see the previous week's bulletin. If you do not have access to the internet, please let the office know, and copies can be printed. If you look at the bulletin on your phone, you can add an icon to your homepage by doing the following steps: **Open** the webpage on your phone. **Click** on (touch) the small square with an arrow pointing up on the bottom of the screen. **Scroll** down to "Add to Home Screen". **Click** on (touch) "Add" in the upper right-hand corner. The next time you want to view the website, you only have to touch the new icon on your home page screen. If you need help finding the website or creating the icon on your phone, call the office or stop in the narthex after Mass for help.
3. **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.
4. **Since last 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.

5. **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/
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Bishop Robert Barron, 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, Volume II on Acts, Letters, and Revelation and Volume III, which will be released in 2023, on The Pentateuch. All can be ordered at <https://wordonfire.org/bible>. 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.
9. If anyone has a printer that uses HP950/951 ink cartridges, we have 1 Black XL and 3 Color XL cartridges for sale. The printer quit printing, and these were never used. \$145.00 for all four – call the office 533-8578.

Catholic Trivia

Do you know the history of Cuba's miraculous patroness?

CRACK! Thunder vibrated in the air. Rain poured from black clouds, whipping the water into frenzied waves. The two men in the tiny boat wore grim expressions. The little slave boy with them crouched in the hull, holding on tight, his eyes tightly shut. Waves rushed towards the little boat. The man at the rudder threw the tiller over, trying to bring the bow towards the oncoming wave. Too late.

CRASH! Water filled the boat, cascading over the slave boy's shoulders. Suddenly, the boy leaped up, staring at the gray, rocking, roaring world. He fumbled at his shirt's throat and pulled out a little medal hanging on a chain about his neck. The medal was engraved with an image of the Blessed Mother. "Pray!" cried the boy, kneeling in the water-filled hull; the men followed his example. They cried out, "Blessed Virgin, save us!"



Our Lady of Charity

Suddenly, all was silent. The boat rocked gently as the three occupants opened their eyes and looked about them. Sea and sky were as calmly blue as they had been a few hours before, when the men had decided it was a good time to look for salt in the bay.

Where was the storm? Then they spied a little white object bobbing toward them on the rolling swells. Was it a bird? No, not a bird. The object came closer and they fished it out of the water. It was a statue of a woman with a child on one arm and a cross in her hand. The statue was clothed in white robes and fastened to a board bearing the inscription, "I am the Virgin of Charity." The statue was completely dry.

Since that awe-filled day on 17th-century Cuban waters, Our Lady of Charity has been lovingly venerated by Cuba in the city of El Cobre. Devotion to her has spread to surrounding coasts such as Portugal and the United States.

This is just one instance of the countless times Our Lady has interceded for us, her children.