

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
evecoulter@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

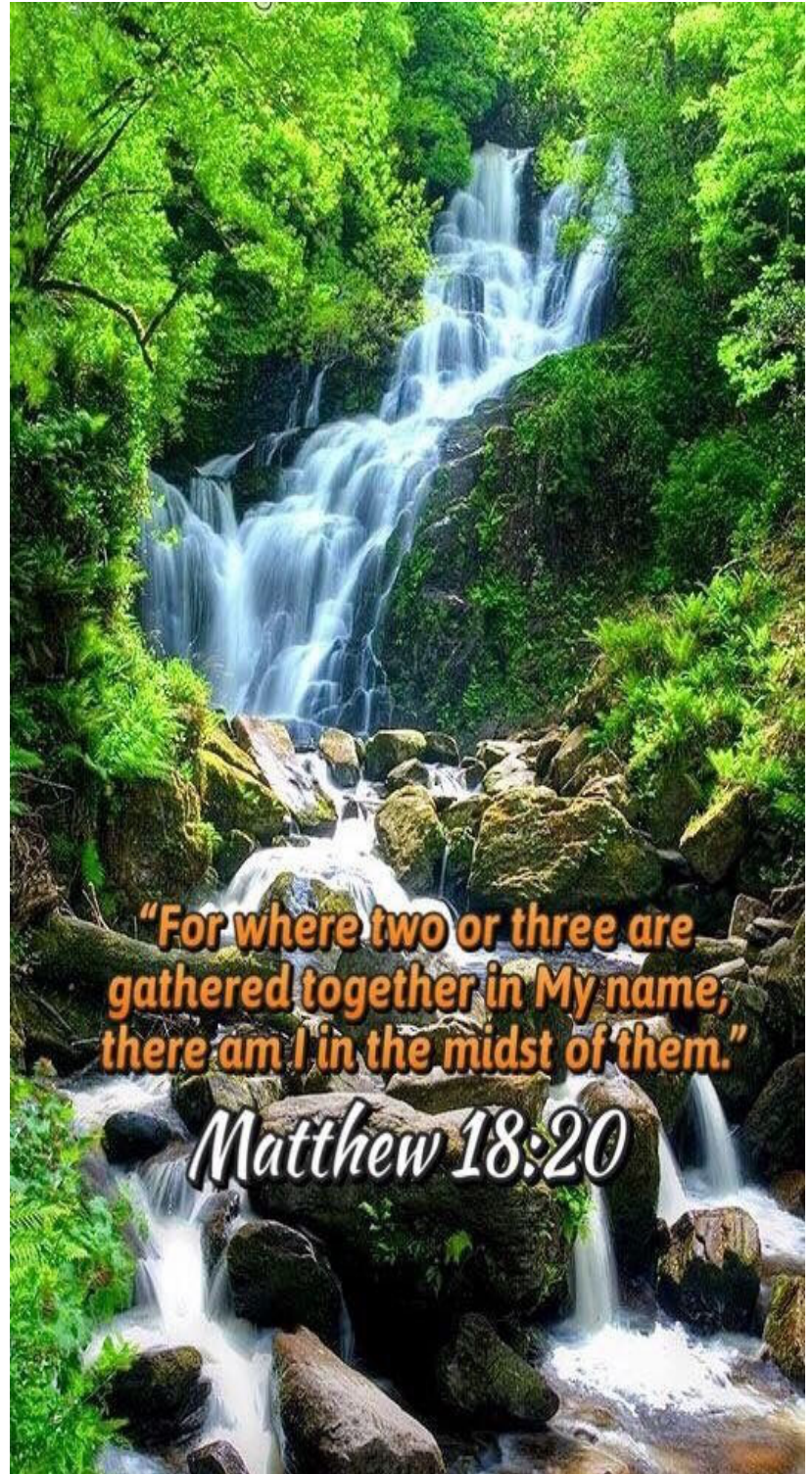
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

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 Orlando



***"For where two or three are
gathered together in My name,
there am I in the midst of them."***

Matthew 18:20

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 10, 2023



Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 9	5:00 pm	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Sun Sep 10	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 10	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Sat Sep 16	5:00 pm	All Souls in Purgatory
Sun Sep 17	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 17	10:30 am	+Jose Claudio Galindo By Family

No Daily Mass September 11th – 18th.

Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, 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

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests

Sep 14, 2017 Msgr. Patrick Caverly
Sep 19, 2016 Very Rev. John M. McCormick
Sep 23, 1986 Rev. Louis Bamundo
Sep 27, 1995 Rev. Charles Schneider

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Greenpoint Research plant nursery, 2400 US 17, is looking for workers. Call 863-245-1354.

(This is the old Goochland & Sunshine Growers)

On the battleground of our souls, victory over sin and death is won only by allowing ourselves to be conquered by Christ's love.

LECTORS	SME
9/9-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ann Spencer	Kathleen Morris Doug Van Orsdale
9/10-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Carrie Brown	Martha Laurent Theresa Cherry
9/16-5:00 pm	
Toni Hoffer Jessica Witmer	Mary Stratton Toni Hoffer
9/17-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Sara Long	Sharon Mason Bill Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

8/27	Regular	\$1860.00
	Maintenance	260.00
	Diocesan	20.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

8/27	Regular	320.00
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Diocesan Collection-September 17th Priest Retirement and Priest Care



Rummage Sale items are being accepted at this time. The sale is scheduled for **October 6** and **October 7**.



Jesus desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist.

A LASTING TRAIL OF LIGHT: THE WITNESS OF PEDRO BALLESTER

The 21-year-old student's memory burns bright in new documentary, 'I Have Never Been Happier.'

In the early hours of Jan. 13, 2018, after a three-year battle with cancer, Pedro Ballester died. He was 21 years old.

Prior to his untimely death, his life's course seemed unexceptional. He grew up in a loving Spanish family domiciled in England; he had a good education; then he was diagnosed with cancer and died young.

Yet there was side to his life, or perhaps put more correctly, another dimension. Ballester came from a devoutly Catholic family. Both his parents are members of the personal prelature of Opus Dei. Pedro, too, would become a celibate member (numerary) of Opus Dei.

Even before his death, Pedro's life and witness was being remarked upon. The manner in which he lived and loved those around him, marked by the cross of cancer that unexpectedly appeared in his life, seemed remarkable.

Just prior to Christmas 2022, a documentary film premiered in London. I Have Never Been Happier told the story of Pedro's truncated yet impactful life.

After Pedro's death, Jack Valero, the film's producer, felt that there was a need for a documentary film on the student's life.

"We were seeing a growth in devotion to Pedro in many countries of the world, with reports of favors granted through his intercession being received from many places," Valero explained. In addition, at that time, said Valero, a book was being written about his life. Initially published in Spanish, it is now also available in English.

"So we felt this was the right time to make a documentary of his life," Valero said, drawing on interviews with "family and friends, as well as people who met Pedro at the different stages of his life. We wanted to record the impact he had had on people."

The film's director, Juan Martín Ezratty, said, "Last year, talking with Jack Valero, the idea of making this documentary came up. Pedro was

a regular young man who had a big impact and who could be a great inspiration to others. I saw that he was someone who enjoyed his life, a young man who was sporty and who loved everyone around him and who gave his life to God at a very young age — a person who prayed and sought to serve everyone."

Born in Manchester, England, on May 22, 1996, Pedro Ballester Arenas was brought up there and in Yorkshire by his parents, Esperanza and Pedro, along with his brothers, Carlos and Javier. His parents, as married members of Opus Dei, understood the young man's subsequent vocation to the celibate life in the prelature.

By 2014, Pedro was admitted to Imperial College in London, one of the most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom. He was just beginning his chemical engineering program when he started to feel pain in his back. Eventually, cancer was diagnosed.

Through 2015-16, Pedro went to Germany to receive state-of-the-art proton beam therapy. At first, it seemed to have worked; the tumor appeared to be gone. But, by January 2017, the pain began once more. The cancer had returned.

I Have Never Been Happier tells the all-too-short life of its subject in detail. Pedro is of a generation that grew up recording its lives on video and later on digital image. The film is, therefore, an especially comprehensive visual record. The audience witnesses the earliest moments of Pedro's life and childhood, his transition from boyhood to adolescence — and then viewers watch, unfolding on screen, the various stages of his illness. Obviously, there are contributions from his parents and brothers, as well as the many people who encountered him in his 21 years of life. They enrich the film greatly. But that last category is all the more interesting because some of those represented on screen are not Catholics or even Christians.

The film is a reminder that no life's significance is simply determined by length.

(To be continued next week)