



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17, 2023

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

2. The obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored on Palm Sunday 2022. 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 source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

3. Bishop Robert Barron has written a new book, *This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival*, to accompany the Eucharistic Revival currently underway in our country. It is being published for a very reasonable \$2.00 per copy, and his goal is to get this book into the hands of one million Catholics. Copies can be found at both doors of the church. Please take one, and consider a small donation toward this program to the money box in the narthex that is marked "Book".

4. Our Parish bulletin 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 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.

5. Synod 2021 – 2023. Pope Francis has asked us to be a people of "synodality" for two years beginning in Advent 2021. Synodality is a journeying together, a time to listen to one another

and to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father said there are three words to 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, listen to the heart, and understand how the Spirit is asking us to move forward.

6. **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/
7. To subscribe to Bishop John Noonan's E-Scroll, news from the Diocese of Orlando <https://www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/>. Just provide your name and email address.
8. Fr. Blake Britton, a priest in our Diocese, who is now at the Pontifical Institute of St. John Paul II in Washington DC. for further studies, has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. 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. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>.
9. 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.
10. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN Catholic television network, please consider a gift of \$10, \$20 or \$25 per month or any amount you choose. No amount is too small.

If anyone is looking for a job, Greenpoint Research, a plant nursery on US 17 between Bartow and Fort Meade (was Goochland and then Sunshine Growers) is hiring. The phone number is 863-245-1354.

Catholic Trivia

Who were King Louis IX's most important dinner guests? Sitting in the places of honor around King Louis' personal table were 13 of those most dear to him.

He was the King of France. He was the founder of the Sorbonne, one of Europe's most prestigious universities. He was friends with St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure. Let's just say St. Louis IX had plenty of prestigious people to dine with. Yet the ones he invited to join him for his nightly meal were not nobles, or scholars, or aristocrats. They were *the poor of his kingdom*.

For St. Louis, this nightly meal was not an obligation or a show, but an opportunity to serve his people with Christ-like love, a love that he experienced firsthand. As the King of France, St. Louis grew up in a home influenced by the faith of his mother, a loving and devoted woman. His father was Louis VIII, who died when Louis was just 12 years old. Inspired by his mother and the Catholic history of his kingdom, St. Louis developed a sincere and ardent love for the Christian faith. This love grew as he led his country with deep charity and profound humility.



Portrait of King Louis IX by Auguste de Creuse

For many years the nation was at peace and flourishing. With his emphasis on true beauty and belief in the importance of education, Paris grew into a powerful cosmopolitan city and the world's hub for arts and education. Rather than continue to live comfortably, enjoying his successful reign, St. Louis was again moved by the growing advances of Islam throughout the world. At the age of 56, Louis led a Crusade into Northern Africa, where he tragically contracted a disease and passed away. He was canonized just 27 years later.

St. Louis of France defended Christianity, both at home in France and abroad in his Crusades against Islamic influence and persecution. Inspired by his example, we can all learn to embrace our Faith, kindling it in our own hearts and defending it publicly when necessary. .