

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

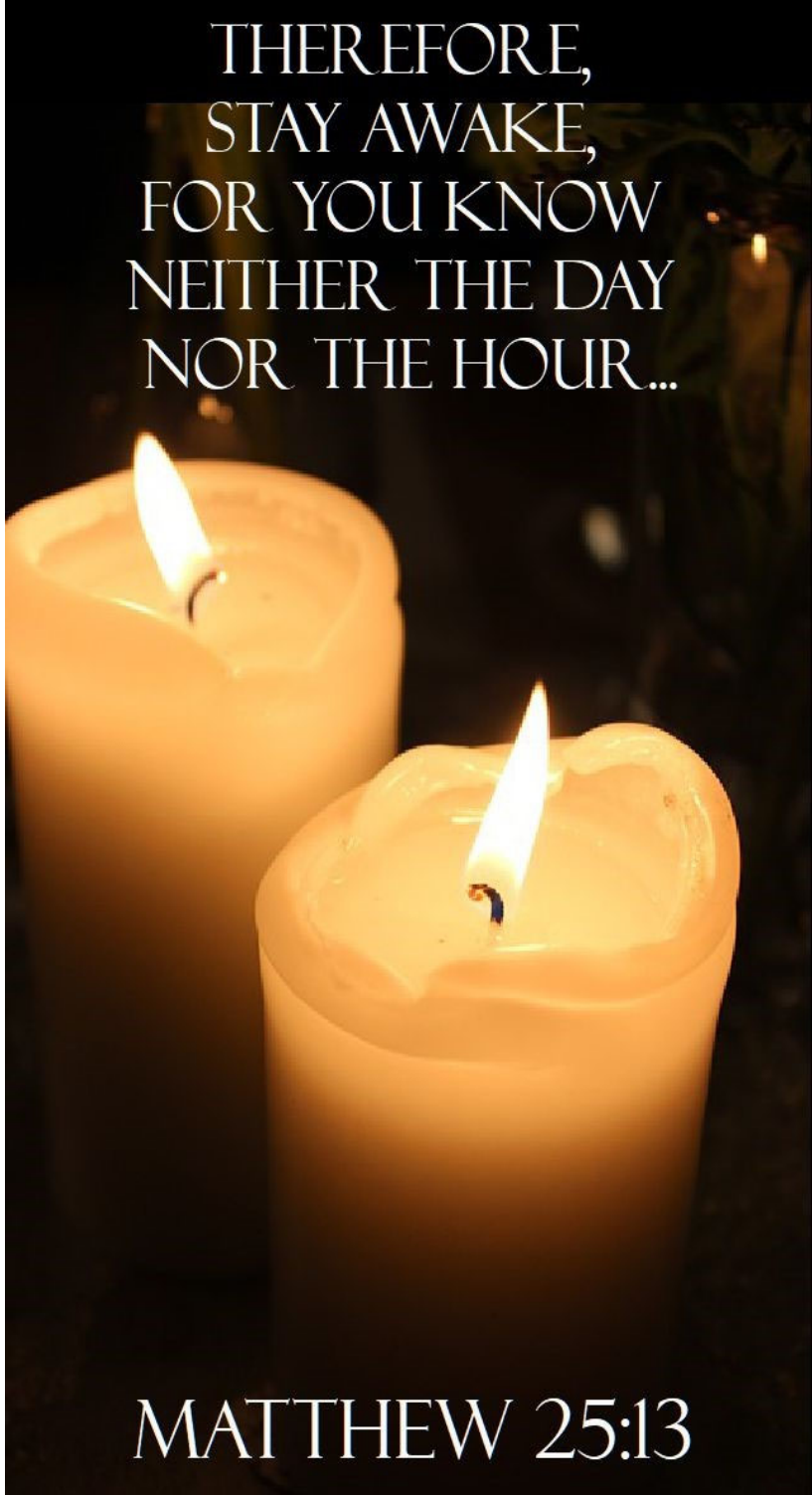
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

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



THEREFORE,
STAY AWAKE,
FOR YOU KNOW
NEITHER THE DAY
NOR THE HOUR...

MATTHEW 25:13

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 12, 2023



Mass Intentions

Sat Nov 11	5:00 pm	For All Veterans
Sun Nov 12	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 12	10:30 am	+Jack & +Charlotte Daubert
Mon Nov 13	8:30 am	+Patricia Dulin-Funeral Mass
Tue Nov 14	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Nov 16	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Nov 17	8:30 am	
Sat Nov 18	5:00 pm	
Sun Nov 19	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 19	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

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:

Nov 3, 2013 Msgr. John Caulfield
 Nov 9, 1994 Rev. Charles Anderson
 Nov 15, 1995 Rev. James Fahey
 Nov 17, 2004 Rev. Thomas Bergin
 Nov 20, 2000 Rev. George Moreau
 Nov 30, 1994 Rev. William Killion



LECTORS	SME
11/11-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Ann Spencer	Kathleen Morris Susan DeNeve
11/12-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Confirmandi	Maureen Leckie Theresa Cherry
11/18-5:00 pm	
Evelyn Rivera Ann Slocum	Evelyn Rivera Ann Slocum
11/19-10:30 am	
Jessica Witmer Confirmandi	Sharon Mason Bill Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

10/29	Regular	\$1159.00
	Maintenance	182.00
	All Souls	260.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

10/29	Regular	555.00
	Diocesan	206.00

SECOND COLLECTION

The Annual Collection for Catholic Charities of Central Florida will be held next weekend. This important Collection is our prayer to God in thanksgiving for all we are given as we “keep our gaze fixed on Jesus” and offer our return to Him who became poor that we might become rich.

NEVER STOP FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

In the battle of prayer, we must face in ourselves and around us erroneous notions of prayer. (Catechism 2726)

Do prayers really matter?

Have you ever wondered about the efficacy of your prayer? When you pray for the end to war in Ukraine or for more priests, does God not only hear that but also act on those prayers?

Of course he does, and they do matter. But why? How?

We know the Bible is the inspired word of God, so the 342 times prayer is mentioned in the Bible must mean something. (Love is mentioned “only” 310 times.) The Bible is very specific about prayer. Jesus prayed. Why would he, if it didn't matter?

Also, why in the Bible did Jesus teach us to pray if it has no value? Why does the Lord's Prayer have us ask our Father to "give us this day our daily bread ... and lead us not into temptation?"

This passage (1 John 5:14-15) is a powerful statement: We have this confidence in God, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, we know that what we have asked him for is ours.

It can't be much clearer than that. God wants us to participate in working out our salvation.

Prayer isn't just for asking things. Prayer is communication with God. Prayer, like any communication with another, can bring us closer to that other. God created us to be in communion with him. Frequent prayer is necessary for that communion to flourish.

Prayer helps us realize our helplessness and total dependence on God. In many cases this draws us closer. But why do we even need to get there? Why do innocent people suffer and why do catastrophes happen?

The short answer: This isn't heaven. God created the earth and put us in this world with those who love us. He has given us the ability to grow, develop, enjoy and love him and others. With all these free gifts, we are often like the 4-year-old child with mom at the grocery store. We ask for the candy and toys and cry when we don't get all of them. We are never satisfied. We want more. So, rather than seek our happiness in worldly things, he gave us that longing to search for him.

God brings good out of everything. There are countless stories of people who prayed for one thing and it didn't happen and in the end they were happier with the "undesirable" outcome. . He draws families together after tragedies. He brings an outpouring of love from strangers at disasters. He even helps people reflect at funerals on their behavior and choices. So, challenges, failure and misery are a part of life through which God brings us.

Never forget: Jesus suffered. He suffered and died so that we "should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). In *Salvifici Doloris*, St. John Paul II wonderfully points out that Christ invites us to unite our suffering to his suffering on the cross. There is redemptive grace in

uniting our suffering with his, to bring new love into the world.

Now you might be thinking, "Yes, I understand that I can't have everything. I understand that I should be thankful for what I have, and I realize that sometimes my suffering might have a purpose. But do prayers matter? Are there times when God changes the outcome?"

Yes, many times. The most common change occurs in our heart when we ask God for things. We recognize that we are not in charge and then we are dependent on God's Providence. That is not a cop-out but a massive consolation.

In addition, there are many documented cases, when things "outside of nature" happen. These miracles change things.

When the friends of the paralytic lowered him from the roof, "Jesus saw their faith; he said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven.' ... 'I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home'" (Mark 2:5).

The faith of the man's friends influenced Christ, and we still see miracles like this today. God wants us to turn toward him. He wants us to love our neighbor. He wants us to get outside of ourselves by trusting in him. Faith and trust create space for God's loving action.

So, if this is the case, how do we approach prayer? Do we nonchalantly say to a friend in need, "I will pray for you" and then forget about it? Do we rattle off a quick Hail Mary and go back to what we were doing? Or do we take seriously this opportunity to pray and humble ourselves before God and seek his kindness and mercy?

Will God notice in us that he "saw our faith" and provide his blessing? Have faith that God wants what is best for you. Trust him and depend on him. Accept the outcome as his will and see the best in it. Love him for loving you through this situation.

Tom Clements



St. Thomas Parish Fun Day
Sunday
November 12
11:30 am