

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

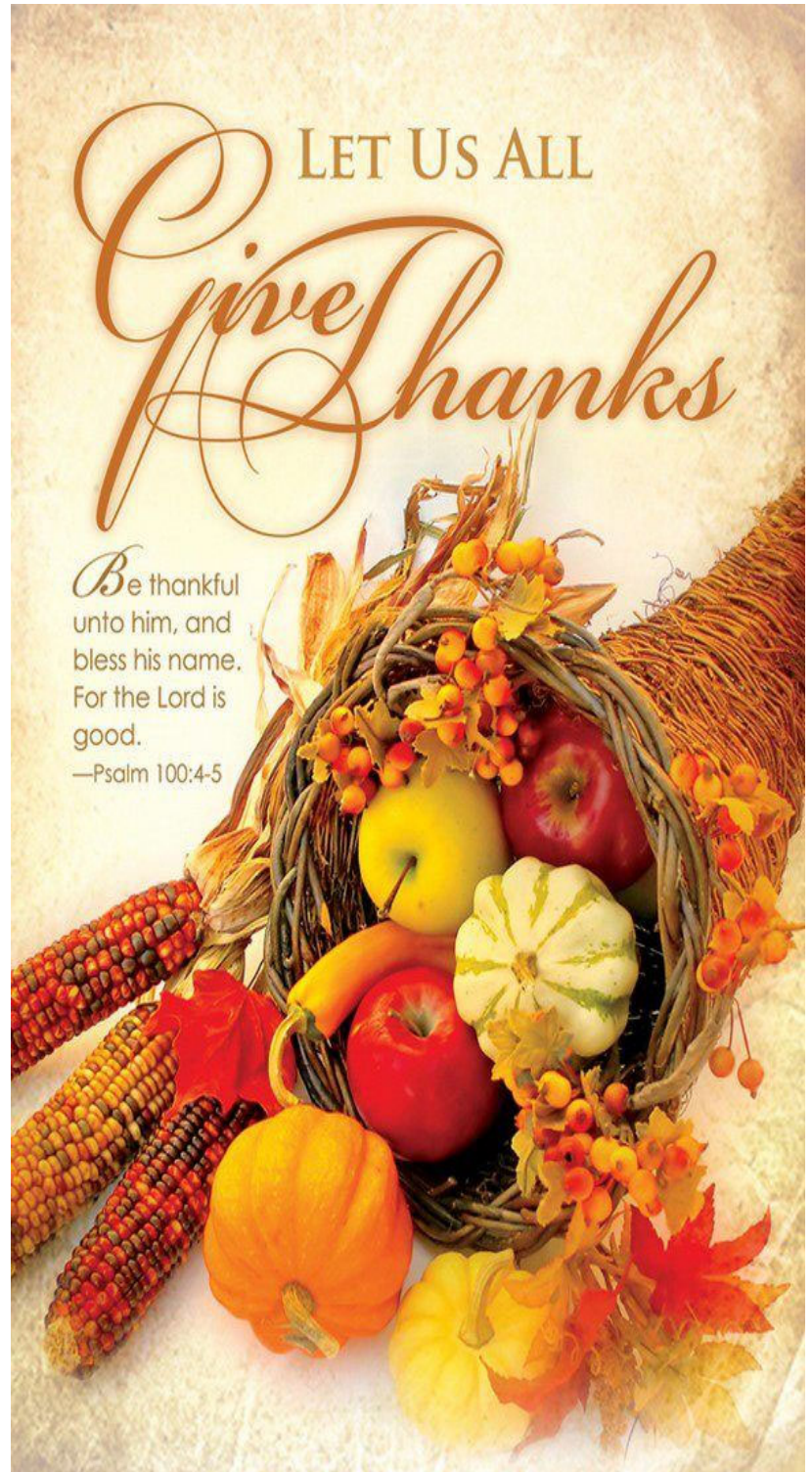
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

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



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 19, 2023



Mass Intentions

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
Mon Nov 20	8:30 am	
Tue Nov 21	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Nov 23	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Nov 24	8:30 am	Special Intention
Sat Nov 25	5:00 pm	
Sun Nov 26	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 26	10:30 am	+Dave Dillman By Linda Dillman

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

Collection on Thanksgiving at 8:30 am Mass will be for the Food Pantry.

LECTORS	SME
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
11/23-8:30 am	
Sara Long	Pat Lowery
11/25-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Barbara Van Orsdale	Susan DeNeve Patti Scott
11/26-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	Pat Lowery George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

11/5	Regular	\$3659.44
	Maintenance	421.00
	All Souls	182.00
	All Saints	221.00
	Food Pantry	259.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

11/5	Regular	1150.00
	Maintenance	22.00

SECOND COLLECTION

The Annual Collection for Catholic Charities of Central Florida will be held this 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped plan and participated in our Funday. The kids and adults all had a wonderful time.



\$25 Walmart gift cards will be collected again this year to help needy children for Christmas. Please call the office to request assistance or if you know a family who might need assistance.

WILL WE TAKE TIME OUT ON THANKSGIVING

Will we take time out on Thanksgiving Day to make it truly a day of Thanksgiving this year?

What do you have to be thankful for?

Let's start with this: President James Madison in 1815 was the one who created the tradition of setting aside a day for the people of the United States to Give Thanks to the Creator for the goodness of our land. It would be good for us to reflect on what the original intent this day was to be as, with so many things in our country we have forgotten who and what we are.

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have by a joint resolution signified their desire that a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnity as a day of thanksgiving and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God for His great goodness manifested in restoring to them the blessing of peace.

No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events and of the Destiny of Nations than the people of the United States. His kind providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for the great family of the human race. He protected and cherished them under all the difficulties and trials to which they were exposed in their early days. Under His fostering care their habits, their sentiments, and their pursuits prepared them for a transition in due time to a state of independence and self-government. [. . .] And to the same Divine Author of Every Good and Perfect Gift we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land.

It is for blessings such as these, and more especially for the restoration of the blessing of peace, that I now recommend that the second Thursday in April next be set apart as a day on which the people of every religious denomination may in their solemn assemblies unite their hearts and their voices in a freewill offering to their Heavenly Benefactor of their homage of thanksgiving and of their songs of praise.

Given at the city of Washington on the 4th day of

March, A. D. 1815, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-ninth. JAMES MADISON

Two items come to mind as I approach this Thanksgiving Day. First, how did we get so far from a President encouraging us to go to our churches to pray on Thanksgiving Day to our secular society declaring it anathema for any kind of mention of God in public speech at all.

Then there's this: How many families turn off the football games for a moment and actually pause at the Thanksgiving table to have family members reflect on what they're thankful for and to offer thanks for them?

How 'bout your family? What are your traditions around the Thanksgiving table? Do you pray? *If you don't have a ritual of sorts, perhaps you can start one.*

How many of us are really *thoughtful* about what we have to be thankful for this year as we approach the day. Especially about where our country is this year. As I look over the past year, I see so much suffering there is in our country and throughout the world. We've been through major hurricanes, as well as, winter storms, and devastating wild fires. Then there's the senseless and insane issue of gun violence.

And my heart aches for so many migrants and refugees throughout the world.

Are we at prayer as we approach Thanksgiving Day?

Are we truly thankful for what we have in this country?

Is America the bright beacon of a hill it once was? Do other countries look up to us as they once did? As I think about these questions a day before Thanksgiving 2023. Do I feel as proud to be an American as I used to be? I want to be, but it's hard. I know I have to do my part.

If we thank God for the gifts He gives us day in and day out, day in and day out. And Praise Him—No. . . Matter. . . What! He will always be with us and protect us.

These days seem to me more like ancient Israel when they had lost their way and were unfaithful to God.

And yet—and yet, all through my own life's struggles, I've learned to continue to pick *myself up* and sing: "I'll go on and praise Him; I'll go on . . ."

And so, dear friends, so will we! If. . .