



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19, 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 in the narthex. Please take one, and consider a small donation toward this program.
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** (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 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, 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 go to 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 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 Bible series. Volume I focuses on the Gospels, Volume II on Acts, Letters, and Revelation, and Volume III, 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.
11. **Bake Sale for Our Catholic Appeal deficit November 18 and 19.** Baking and purchasing baked goods just in time for Thanksgiving will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to the previous bake sale and donations to OCA, \$1,511.00 was received, reducing the deficit to \$3,760.00.

Catholic Trivia

Who was the first incorruptible? 1400 years after the death of St. Cecilia, her body was still intact. It was the year 1599. Cardinal Sfondrati had ordered the restoration of the Basilica of St. Cecilia, a Roman virgin-martyr who had died in the 3rd century.

In the midst of the work, two sarcophagi were discovered. They belonged to St. Cecilia, her husband St. Valerian, her brother-in-law St. Tiburtius, and another Roman martyr named St. Maximus. Pope Pascal I had discovered the relics in the 9th century and placed them in the new basilica.

Born around the year 200 as the daughter of a noble Roman family, St. Cecilia had desired to remain a virgin but was given in marriage to the nobleman Valerian. At her request, he respected her vow of virginity, and was converted to the Faith along with his brother Tiburtius.



In the midst of his conversion, it is said that Valerian received a vision of Cecilia's guardian angel. The two brothers would receive the palm of martyrdom before Cecilia did.

After the death of her husband and brother-in-law, the authorities tried to kill Cecilia by smothering her with steam in a bath house. She was miraculously saved, so an executioner was sent to behead her. He struck her three times but failed to decapitate her. She lay seriously wounded for three days before dying, her head turned to the floor, her hands symbolically expressing her

faith in the Holy Trinity: pointing three fingers of one hand, and one finger of the other—three Persons in one God. It was in this position that Cardinal Sfondrati and his witnesses found Cecilia's incorrupt body when they uncovered her casket. Out of reverence, they left her body in that position. After allowing pilgrims to come venerate this holy virgin-martyr, miraculously preserved from corruption, they reinterred her. Stefano Maderno's famous sculpture—now displayed in front of the altar where she is buried—illustrates the posture in which she died.

The incorruptibles are a consoling sign of Christ's victory over death, a confirmation of the dogma of the Resurrection of the Body, a sign that the saints are still with us in the Mystical Body of Christ, as well as a proof of the truth of the Catholic Faith -- for only in the Catholic Church do we find this phenomenon.