

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



5th Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024



Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 16	5:00 pm	Ann Marie Ducean By Susan Barabas
Sun Mar 17	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 17	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Mon Mar 18	8:30 am	Ann Marie Ducean By Susan Barabas
Tue Mar 19	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Mar 21	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 22	8:30 am	+Eva Grytner
Sat Mar 23	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 24	8:00 am	For the Faithful Departed By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 24	10:30 am	+Dave Dillman By Linda Dillman

Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, Melvin Casey, Maggie Chiarini, Alan English, Rachel Gohlman, Dorothy Guptill, 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, Rise' St. Arno, Gloria Stenger, Murphy Stidham, Debi Tuck, Laura Webb

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests in March.

Mar. 18, 1991 Rev. Paul Kajdan
Mar. 20, 1982 Rev. Thomas Gross
Mar. 22, 1972 Msgr. Martin Brendan Power
Mar. 22, 2023 Rev. John J. Ryan
Mar. 25, 1978 Rev. Sean Patrick Molloy

Every Wednesday during March at 6:00 pm there will be a devotion to St. Joseph.

LECTORS	SME
3/16-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Jessica Witmer	Evelyn Rivera Ann Slocum
3/17-10:30 am	
Maureen Leckie Confirmandi	Maureen Leckie Bill Leckie
3/23-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Ann Spencer Mike DeNeve-Passion	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
3/24-10:30 am	
Pat Lowery Carrie Brown Martha Laurent-Passion	Theresa Cherry George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

3/3	Regular	\$1999.00
	Maintenance	355.25
	Easter Flowers	70.00
	Diocesan	10.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/3	Regular	562.32
	Maintenance	195.00

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Easter Flowers for the Church, envelopes can be found in the pews.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2024

There is a drop box in the narthex.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm



On March 17, Catholics celebrate St. Patrick, the fifth century bishop and patron of Ireland, whose life of holiness set the example for many of the Church's future saints.

EASTER EGG HUNT – After 10:30 Mass on Easter Sunday sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Winter Haven.

SACRED TRIDUUM IS THE REAL SUMMIT OF THE EUCHARIST

(continued from last week)

On Holy Thursday, I'd urge in the Liturgy of the Word an explicit link to the Eucharistic dimension of the Last Supper.

In the first reading, we focus on the Jewish Passover, which was God's preparation, 13 centuries before, for what Jesus would fulfill in the Upper Room. It's a great time to focus on Jesus as the Lamb of God and how, like the Jews, we are called to consume the Lamb. It's also an opportunity to ponder Jesus' Precious Blood, which isn't wiped on lintels, but poured within us. It's likewise a chance to focus on the dimension of the Eucharist as a "memorial feast" and "perpetual institution," making live in time what Jesus himself did on that most sacred night.

The Psalm focuses us on taking up the cup of salvation to thank the Lord for all the good he has done for us, which is precisely what we do in the Mass.

The New Testament reading has us ponder St. Paul's words about what Jesus did on Holy Thursday to give us his Body and the new covenant in his Blood, reminding us that as often as we celebrate Mass, we "proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes," because in the Eucharist, with the separate consecration of Jesus' Body and Blood, we proclaim his saving death and the Resurrection to which it led.

The Gospel of the washing of the apostles' feet is an indication, as Pope Benedict used to emphasize, of the need for the sacrament of penance before the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus told Peter that we don't need to be "bathed" anew because we've been bathed in baptism, but we do need to have our feet washed because feet are a sign of our contact with the filth of the world. Jesus wants to cleanse our feet through the same apostles, bishops and priests through whom he later gives us his Body and Blood.

Holy Communion, the Eucharistic procession and adoration at the altar of repose should be marked by particular gratitude during the Eucharistic Revival, similar to what we show on Corpus Christi, since it's not just we who receive, follow and accompany the Eucharistic Jesus, but he who gives himself, leads, accompanies, saves and sanctifies us!

On Good Friday, we should look toward the reception of Jesus as the culmination of our

participation in Jesus' passion, his self-sacrifice on the cross.

As we venerate the cross, we prepare to receive the fruit of that new Tree of Life.

Each of the Stations of the Cross can be interpreted within a Eucharistic key, as each of those stages were traversed in order for Jesus' body not merely to be placed in the tomb but within us.

The [Seven Last Words of Jesus](#) can all be actualized: In the Eucharist, Jesus continues to pray to the Father for mercy, opens paradise, points us to his Mother, who wants to school us in Eucharistic love, often experiences abandonment from his people, thirsts for our thirst, culminates his saving plan, and seeks to have us join, as his Body and Bride, his commendation to the Father.

In the beginning of the novena of Divine Mercy and recitation of the chaplet, we offer to the Eternal Father, in expiation of our sins and those of the world, the Eucharist, Christ's own Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

At the Easter vigil, we remember that the Eucharistic Christ is the true fire, the One who seeks to illumine and warm us from within.

The various stages of salvation history rehearsed during the magnificent Liturgy of the Word are all meant to culminate in our communion with the Word made flesh: Christ has left the tomb ultimately not just to ascend to the Father but sacramentally to enter us!

The Baptismal Rite and the Renewal of Promises helps to remind us of how our new birth leads to the way he nourishes us.

And the Liturgy of the Eucharist is meant to recapitulate among us the Mass the Risen Jesus himself did in Cleopas' house the night of the Resurrection — and inspire us, like the disciples in Emmaus, to share the incredible news that Jesus has indeed risen — and not just appeared to us but abides in us.

As we prepare for the Sacred Triduum and to enter into the Paschal Mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, which the Catechism says "[stands at the center of the Good News](#)" the Church proclaims to the world. There's no better way to do that than by focusing, and entering into communion with, Jesus in the Eucharist, [the source and summit](#), root and center of Christian faith and life.