

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



Palm Sunday The Passion of the Lord March 24, 2024



Mass Intentions

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
Mon Mar 25	8:30 am	+David G. Wilson By Mary Ellen Wilson Smith
Tue Mar 26	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Mar 28	7:00 pm	
Fri Mar 29	3:00 pm	
Sat Mar 30	8:00 pm	+Eva Grytner
Sun Mar 31	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 31	10:30 am	+Jimmy Hooks & Kimberly Worth By Rick & Maria Davila

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
3/23-5:00 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
3/28-7:00 pm	
Carolyn King Evelyn Rivera	Martha Laurent Maureen Leckie
3/29-3:00 pm	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	
3/30-8:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Mike DeNeve Pat Lowery Ann Slocum Carrie Brown	Kathleen Morris Bill Leckie
3/31-10:30 am	
Caroline Picart Rick Davila	Maria Davila Kay LaClair

Saint Thomas Collection

3/10	Regular	\$2213.00
	Maintenance	40.00
	Easter Flowers	80.00
	Diocesan	616.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/10	Regular	880.00
	Diocesan	112.00

HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION


Holy Thursday's collection will be used to support our Food Pantry. On Holy Thursday Jesus celebrates his Last Supper with the disciples. Your gifts will help supply "supper" for the needy of our community.

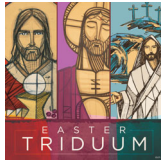
GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land.



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, **March 31st** after the 10:30 am Mass.

Saint Thomas			
 © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.	March 28	7:00 pm	Holy Thursday
	March 29	3:00 pm	Good Friday
	March 30	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil
	March 31	10:30 am	Easter
Saint Elizabeth			
	March 31	8:00 am	Easter



I urge you to make a special effort to participate in our celebration of the Triduum, the high point of our church's year. I encourage parents to introduce your children to these beautiful celebrations.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

On the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities," the crowning jewel of the liturgical year, the Easter Vigil, the deacon addresses God's People in the Exultet, gazing upon the newly lit Candle of Pasch and imploring all present to honor the victory of Christ who "dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners." Since the fourth century, Christians of Gaul and Hispania have chanted this ancient hymn, welcoming the "pillar of fire . . . hallowed to the honor of Christ's name . . . to overcome the darkness of night."

Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises. (*Missale Romanum "Rubrics for the Easter Vigil,"*)

The Paschal Candle begins as the only source of light in the celebration, its lonesome flame hanging aspiringly upon the cloak of eventide. With the crucified Messiah, the Candle is cast into the abyss of Sheol and becomes the "sign of Jonah," a muted word that speaks in its solitude. How overwhelming the void seems!

How can anything good come from it? How can hope find refuge in such a place? As the Candle processes deeper into Nyx's veil, little sparks spring up around it, birthed from the single fire. The solitude becomes communion, the lone Nazarene becomes the Head of a Body composed of many parts (1 Cor. 12:12); the Church is illumined rebuking the night as a false god.

Here we see the primary symbolism of the Paschal Candle: it is a sign of Christ's descent into the realm of the dead, a reminder that "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses," but one who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave . . . and being obedient to death" (Heb. 4:15, Phil. 2:7-8). Too often, this stunning truth is under-emphasized, even when celebrating funerals. We tend to jump straight to Christ's Resurrection as the exclusive revelation of God's glory. Yet, the Church teaches otherwise. The *Victimae paschali* precedes the *Resurrexit sicut dixit*; He is risen because He is the sacrificial victim. His power lies in being the slaughtered lamb who went meekly before the shearers, and only in this way is he the "one who is raised" (Is. 53:7, 2 Cor. 4:14). It is his radical abandonment to the Father, the completeness of the "not my will but yours," that marks Jesus' Kingship revealing him as the "beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" and the one to whom "all things are subjected," even death (Luke 22:42, Matt. 3:17, 1 Cor. 15:26-28). Thus, John's eschatological vision sees the "Lamb that was slain" as the one "standing at the center of the throne" (Rev. 5:6).

Thus, the relationship between the Paschal Mystery, Baptism and Death comes full circle with the Paschal Candle as the thematic sign drawing these three realities into a unitive paradigm.

There are some things you can't lend and some things you can't borrow. You can't borrow someone else's relationship with God. You can't borrow holiness, or mercy, or love, or wisdom. You can't borrow someone else's prayer life. You have to have your own.