

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  
evcoultter@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

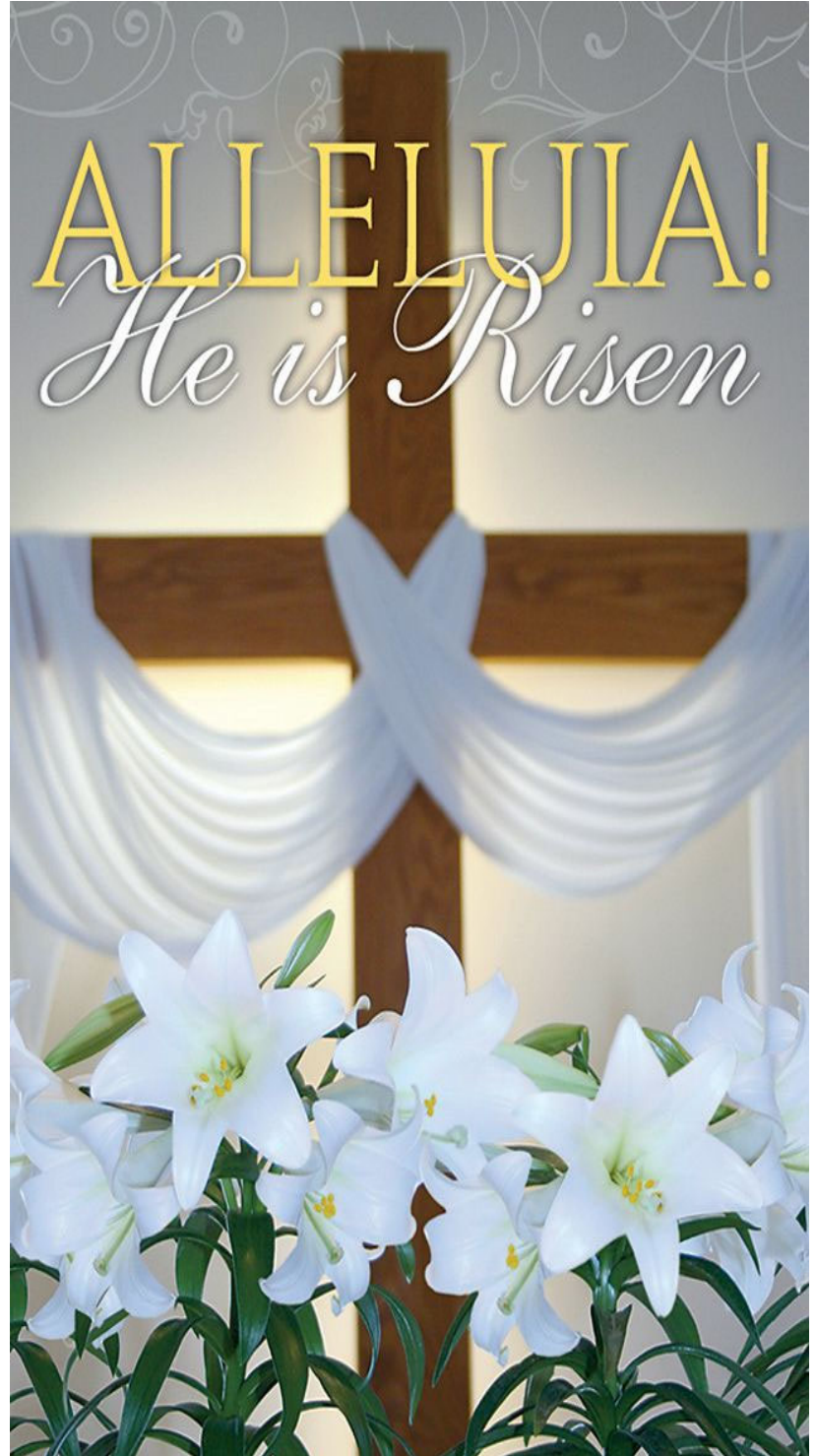
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.)

Email: gloria121@verizon.net  
Phone 863-533-8578  
Fax 863- 533-5090  
[www.stthomasbartow.org](http://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



# Easter Sunday

## The Resurrection of the Lord

### March 31, 2024



### Mass Intentions

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 Davia
Mon Apr 1	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Tue Apr 2	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Apr 4	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Apr 5	8:30 am	+Gladys Miranda Aguilera By Ivette M. Lopez Miranda
Sat Apr 6	8:30 am	Special Intention By Ivette M. Lopez Miranda
Sat Apr 6	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 7	8:00 am	+Roberto Rodriguez By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Apr 7	10:30 am	+Eva Grytner

### 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



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

LECTORS	SME
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
4/6-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Kathleen Morris
4/7-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	Maria Davila Kay LaClair

### Saint Thomas Collection

3/17	Regular	\$1634.00
	Maintenance	266.00
	Easter Flowers	82.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/17	Regular	717.00
	Maintenance	50.00

### COME TO PRAY

**April 4** First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

**April 5** First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**April 6** First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monsternce.

### ***Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests***

Apr 6, 2018	Rev. Edward Hamilton
Apr 17, 2017	Rev. Domingo Gonzalez
Apr 19, 2012	Rev. John Walsh
Apr 21, 2002	Most Rev. Thomas Grady
Apr 21, 2018	Rev. Eduardo Benitez
April 24, 2023	Rev. Sean Heslin
Apr 28, 1985	Rev. Luis Maris Padilla
Apr 29, 2014	Msgr. Terence Farrelly

## AN EASTER OCTAVE CHALLENGE

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."*

Easter is here! Alleluia, he is risen! We have made it through our Lenten fast, we have walked with the Lord during his passion and death, and we rejoice now in his resurrection. It is, quite rightly, a time for feasting and celebration.

But how might we appropriately celebrate the Easter season? Too often, I find that my efforts of growing in the spiritual life that begin on Ash Wednesday abruptly end with the Triduum. Sound familiar? Sometimes there is the danger, as we transition from Lent into Easter, of leaving our "best selves" behind. For Lent, we plan. During Lent, we sacrifice. During Lent, we pray more. During Lent, we take time to read Scripture. During Lent, we make sure to go to confession. But what plans do we make for Easter?

It may be worth considering, as we enter into this new season, how we might use the coming weeks to intentionally continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ? What fruit might we carry over from our Lenten experiences? How might we be able to have the best Easter yet?

To do this, we might start by considering the Church's great gift of the Easter Octave. There is no better time in the year to celebrate than Easter Sunday and the week that follows. For eight days in a row, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Easter in what is "an unparalleled opportunity for celebration and reflection."

If your Lenten commitment was to attend daily Mass throughout the season, don't stop now! As Emmons explains: "During the Octave Days of Easter the Mass readings tell us the beautiful Resurrection story so that we can take time to ponder the reality that Calvary was not the end. Each of us can relate to the sadness, confusion and then elation of the disciples on the Emmaus road. Like Mary Magdalene we can encounter the risen Lord in the garden. In our hearts we can race with Peter and John to see the empty tomb."

Continuing to attend daily Mass during the Easter Octave is a powerful way to enter into the new season and to reflect upon the gift of the Resurrection.

There are other ways, too, of celebrating the Octave. Perhaps your family can have ice cream every day? Or make a Lamb cake for Easter Sunday that you snack on all week long. Perhaps

you pick one thing you really love to do, but never make time for, to do every day: a hobby, a nap, time with a good book.

We might also use the Easter Octave to read Scripture — the Resurrection narratives in all four Gospels are a great place to start — or commit to additional devotions. Or pick up a new spiritual book? Any healthy habits that we forge during the Easter Octave can be carried over into the whole Easter season, and hopefully beyond.

Pope Benedict XVI, in a 2011 General Audience during the Easter Octave, wrote beautifully: "Easter ... brings the newness of a profound and total passage from a life subjected to the slavery of sin to a life of freedom, enlivened by love, a force that pulls down every barrier and builds a new harmony in one's own heart and in the relationship with others and with things. Every Christian just as every community, if he lives the experience of this passage of resurrection, cannot but be a new leaven in the world, giving himself without reserve for the most urgent and just causes, as the testimonies of the saints in every epoch and in every place show."

## PLENARY INDULGENCE ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

A plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)

On Divine Mercy Sunday, **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, following the 10:30 am Mass, a chicken dinner will be provided in the Social Hall at no cost to you. Please plan to join us.

***It is not possible to know the Risen Lord and to indulge in despair. Despair died on the cross and unshakeable hope was born at Easter. That is why Easter faith is the surest anchor for all of us in turbulent times.***