



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 24, 2024

- 1. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
- 2. Every Wednesday during March at 6:00pm there will be a devotion to St. Joseph that begins at the Statue of St. Joseph.**
- 3. Pilgrimage to Italy August 12 – 25.** For information on the trip, go to St. Thomas website homepage and click on the button “Fr. Eugene’s Pilgrimages”. It will take you right to the information. For prices, click on the dates August 12-25, and the city you want to depart from. Father is leaving from Tampa.
- 4. Pilgrimage to Greece September 17 – 30** with Fr. George Dunne, SSS, sponsored by San Pedro Spiritual Development Center. Includes 4-night cruise and roundtrip airfare from Orlando. For information <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bfc3028b98a787cb513d4ab/t/65b7bddc63af444745dd97ab/1706540511009/Greece+Brochure+FINAL.pdf>. You may need to copy & paste the address if clicking on the link doesn’t take you there.
- 5. Construction Volunteer Opportunities** to bring water to rural mountain communities to our Sister Diocese in San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic. May 4-11, June 22 – 29, July 20 – 27. For information, 407-246-4893 or zwamy.parra@orlandodiocese.org.
- 6. The obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored two years ago 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.
- 7. 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. Copies can be found in the narthex. Please take one and read it.**

8. Our Parish bulletin can be viewed 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 for an iphone. 1. **Do a search for stthomasbartow.org.** 2. **When the page opens, Click** (touch) the small square with an arrow pointing up on the bottom of the screen. 3. **Scroll** down and (touch "Add to Home Screen". 4. **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. If you have an Android phone, please call the office for directions.
9. **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.
10. 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.
11. 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*. If you would like to purchase the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. **National Eucharistic Congress 2024.** It was 1941 in St. Paul/Minneapolis when the Church in America last gathered for a National Eucharistic Congress. A National Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of the whole Church from across the nation. Eucharistic Adoration is a powerful part of every Eucharistic Congress. At the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, our Catholic family will gather to experience profound, personal renewal through the power of Christ's love.

We are on the cusp of a new chapter for the Church in the United States – a chapter that begins with the rebirth of this incredible legacy. Be a part of this generational moment! Reserve your passes today for the long-awaited 10th National Eucharistic Congress July 17 – 21, 2024 in Indianapolis, where the Church will find blessing and renewal through a profound encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Catholic Trivia

We don't know a word he said, but his actions spoke louder than words. We don't know when he was born. We don't know when he died. We don't know what he looked like. We don't know a single word that he said. He is accurately called the "hidden saint." Yes, we're talking about St. Joseph. But even though we may not know much *about* him, we do know some of what he *did*, and as they say, actions speak louder than words. St. Joseph's actions certainly speak volumes!



St. Joseph Leading the Christ Child by Murillo

St. Joseph shows us that near-perfection *is* possible for us original-sin-stained mortals. After all, we're talking about the man God Himself selected as His foster father! St. Joseph's virtues are second only to our Blessed Mother's spotless perfections.

The Scriptures mention St. Joseph pretty minimally, but even from that little bit we can draw abundant examples of his many virtues.

A few of the most apparent:

1. Obedience: St. Joseph is called a "righteous man": he lived the spirit as well as the letter of the Law of Moses. In everything he did, he sought to accomplish God's will. Even when he felt unworthy or did not understand, he performed God's will without question.

2. Purity: At a young age, St. Joseph made a vow of chastity. Tradition tells us that when the priests were choosing a fit spouse for the Blessed Mother, they gave several eligible young men wooden rods to hold. God made St. Joseph's rod bloom into fragrant lilies, the ancient symbol of purity.

3. Silence: Silence? That's a virtue? Yes! St. Joseph is the perfect Martha-Mary combo: he worked hard (carpentry is demanding, and so are trips around the Middle East) yet silence enveloped him. Joseph's silence reveals his deep prayer life. God would not have subjected Himself to the authority and care of someone who was not seeking to know Him in holiness.