



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 31, 2024

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
2. **Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on April 7, 2024.** Dinner in Social Hall after 10:30 am Mass. No cost to you. Sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club.
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. Reserve your passes today for the long-awaited 10th National Eucharistic Congress July 17 – 21 in Indianapolis, where the Church will find and renewal through a profound encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

15. **Ave Maria University upcoming Conferences.** Mary, Mother of the Eucharist May 10 – 12 and Called, Youth Conference July 12 – 14. More information is on pages 4 & 5.

Catholic Trivia

Do you know the profound symbolism of St. John Paul II's famous crucifix? We all know this crucifix well, but do you know what it means?

The symbol of the Cross is always striking and distinct. It immediately communicates a profound reality, even to those unaware of its meaning. While there are different styles and depictions of Christ's cross, each variation ultimately helps emphasize something distinct about the Passion of Our Lord. Some of these variations have become instantly recognizable—such as the papal crucifix of St. John Paul II. Chosen upon his election in 1978, this crucifix stands as a distinct symbol in Catholic history.

Although it has become iconic, JP II's crucifix is subtle and simple. The cross, a dull-toned silver without any ornamentation, reflected JP II's humility. It also was an obvious departure from the more ornate papal crosses of the past. Rather than emphasizing ornamentation, JP II's unadorned crucifix focused on



the physical nature of the cross. Featuring hyper-realistic beams and the corpus of an obviously fatigued and suffering Christ, this crucifix high-

lights the physically demanding nature of Christ's sacrifice for us.

This departure from a more decorated crucifix to an unadorned crucifix mirrors the way St. John Paul II's election was also a departure. As the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, the shift in style of St. John Paul II's cross was a visual representa-

tion of this important historical shift. Its unadorned style echoed his commitment to a Church dedicated to service and solidarity with the less fortunate. This crucifix was more than an accessory; it was a testament to John Paul II's theological vision. It represented the strength and steadfastness he brought to his role as pope during a time of global change and challenges.

As we approach Good Friday, the image of Christ's Cross and Passion should bear more heavily upon our minds. Embrace Our Lord's humility and unconditional love.



MARY, MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST

13TH ANNUAL MARIAN EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

"MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF OUR LORD..." (LUKE 1:46)

May 10-12, 2024
Ave Maria University

FEATURING



Raymond Arroyo



Mother Adela Galindo



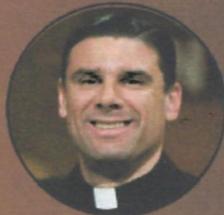
Johnnette B Williams



Kathleen Beckman



Fr. Robert Sirico



Fr. Rafael Capo



Fr. David Vidal



Jon Niven

Special breakout sessions will be offered in Spanish.

\$190 Registration Fee
INCLUDES LODGING AND MEALS



For more information, visit our website or contact us
aveconferences.com | aveconferences@gmail.com
239-348-4725

AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY

CALLED

2024 AMU YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 12-14, 2024
Ave Maria University

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

FEATURING



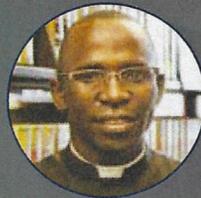
NOELLE
GARCIA



FR. TIMOTHY
ANASTOS



PAM
STENZEL



FR. JOSEPH
LUGALAMBI



EPIC MUSIC
MINISTRIES

Early Bird: **\$150** Valid until April 1, 2024

Registration: **\$190**

Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship, Fellowship, Lodging, Meals, T-shirt, Pizza Night, and More!



For more information, visit our website or contact us
aveconferences.com | aveconferences@gmail.com

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