

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

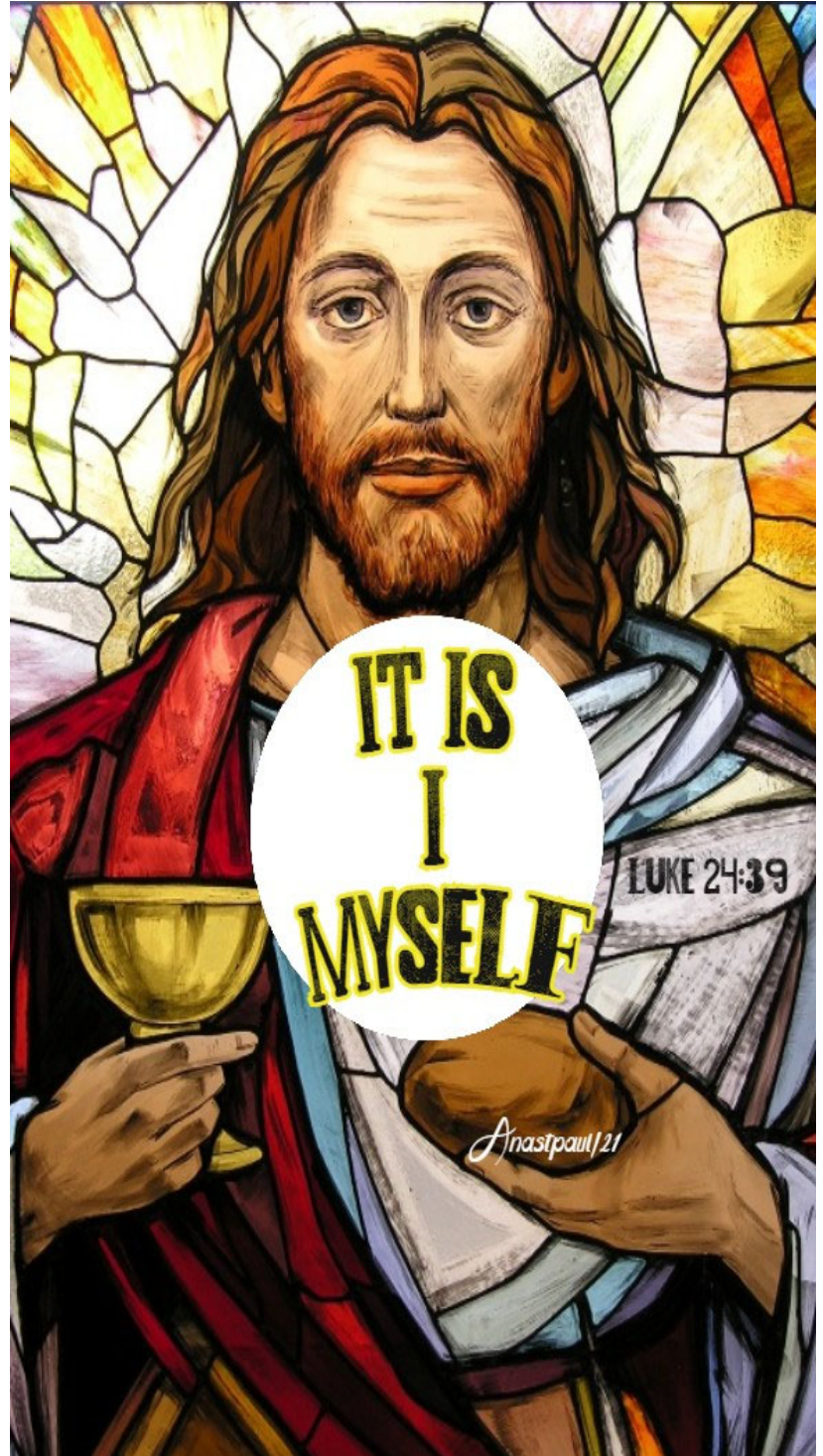
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

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



Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



Mass Intentions

Sat Apr 13	5:00 pm	+Kainen Genovisi, +Juan Vasquez, +Elisa Roman By Yolanda Vasquez
Sun Apr 14	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 14	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Mon Apr 15	8:30 am	
Tue Apr 16	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Apr 18	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Apr 19	8:30 am	
Sat Apr 20	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 21	8:00 am	For All the Faithful Departed By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Apr 21	10:30 am	Special Intention

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, Chuck Spencer, Rise' St. Arno, Gloria Stenger, Murphy Stidham, Debi Tuck, Laura Webb

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

LECTORS	SME
4/13-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
4/14-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Martha Laurent Patti Scott
4/20-5:00 pm	
Evelyn Rivera Ann Spencer	Evelyn Rivera Ann Slocum
4/21-10:30 am	
Maureen Leckie Confirmandi	Maureen Leckie Bill Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

3/31	Regular	\$3067.00
	Maintenance	297.00
	Easter Flowers	145.00
	Diocesan	736.00
	Easter	880.00
	Holy Thursday for Food Pantry	722.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/31	Regular	240.00
	Maintenance	18.00
	Easter	160.00

Christianity is not at all a search for God, as people sometimes say about religion, especially today, when so many people, having abandoned the faith they were raised in, are looking for something to guide their lives. No, Christianity is a religion of Divine Revelation, of the God who first searches for us, who speaks to us — of the God who, as St. John says in one of his Epistles, “has first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

THANKS

Thank you to the Women’s Club for the delicious chicken dinner that was served after Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Thanks to everyone who donated long sleeve shirts to the 2024 Long-Sleeve Relief Drive. Two large boxes were collected and delivered to be distributed to farmworkers.

The Women’s Club will meet immediately after Mass on Sunday, April 14th.

WE SHALL KNOW HIM IN ‘THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD’-THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

The Gospel of St. Luke presents two discouraged and broken men making their way to Emmaus after Jesus' crucifixion. It is late in the afternoon, and the sun is sinking low. They are also moving in the wrong direction, west. They have their backs to the Lord, rising in the east. How will the Lord reorient them, turn them in the right direction?

The Lord will do this by celebrating Holy Mass with them. Let's examine this Mass.

Gathering Rite

The curtain rises on this Mass with two disciples having gathered together on a journey. This is what we do as the preliminary act of every Mass. "And it happened that ... Jesus himself drew near and walked with them" (Lk 23:15). When we gather together at Mass, the Lord Jesus is also with us. Scripture says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Mat 18:20).

Penitential Rite

The two disciples seem troubled, and the Lord inquires of them the source of their distress: "What are you discussing as you walk along?" (Lk 24:17). In effect, the Lord engages them in a kind of gentle penitential rite, speaking to them about their negativity. So, too, for us at Mass. We, too, often enter the presence of God looking downcast and carrying many burdens and sins. Like these disciples, we may be walking in the wrong direction. In effect, the Lord says to us, "What are thinking about as you walk along? Where are you going with your life?"

Liturgy of the Word

"Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures" (Lk 24:27).

Not only does the Lord refer to Scripture, he interprets it for them. Hence the word is not merely read; there is a homily, an explanation and application of the Scripture to the men's struggles. So, too, for us at Mass. The Lord bids us to listen to his word as the Scriptures are proclaimed, and the homilist interprets and applies the word to our life, as Christ himself "spoke ... and opened the Scriptures" to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

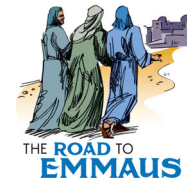
Liturgy of the Eucharist

They ask Christ to stay for supper. "And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them" (Lk 24:30). Yes, it is the Mass, to be sure. All the basic actions of the Eucharist are there: He took, blessed, broke and gave. They are the same actions that took place at the Last Supper and that we repeat at every Mass. "With that, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight" (Lk 24:31). That Jesus vanishes from their sight teaches us that he will no longer be seen with the eyes of the flesh, but with the eyes of faith. He is now to be encountered in the sacraments and the liturgy.

Go in Peace

"So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven ... recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:33-35).

Note that this liturgy has reoriented them. They are now heading back east, toward the Risen Son. Consider these two men who began this Gospel quite downcast. Their hearts are now on fire, and they now see. The Lord has celebrated Mass in order to get them to this point. So, too, for us: The Lord celebrates Mass in order to set our hearts on fire and open our eyes to glory.



"We are children of a bountiful Father, heirs to a kingdom, so we are to ask the Father to supply our needs. Our trust, however, must be one of childlike confidence in His Providence. It is in that spirit that we realize everything that happens to us has first passed through His hands and His grace is with us."

Mother Angelica

Bishop Alexandre Joly of Troyes, France said that "we now feel a real new breath of hope," with 5,463 adults baptized in France at Easter—up one thousand since 2022. A higher number is expected in 2024.