



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 28, 2024

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
2. **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.
3. **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/65b7bdbc63af444745dd97ab/1706540511009/Greece+Brochure+FINAL.pdf>. You may need to copy & paste the address if clicking on the link doesn’t take you there.
4. **Pilgrimage to Italy November 4-12 with Fr. Jarek, St. John Neumann Church.** \$3,998.00 per person based on double occupancy. Contact Charles Hoey, Regina Tours, 1-800-CATHOLIC, X 251, or email at choey@groupist.com.
5. **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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. **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.
9. 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.
10. 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>
11. 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.
12. 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.

Catholic Trivia

Hawaii: Home of a miracle church?! It's a church built by the forces of nature.

Maui, Hawaiian Islands, 1860

"We continue our endeavors to harvest coral from the reefs, but on account of the difficulty and expense of the labor, our work goes slowly. Today we had to give up the attempt altogether, for the seas ran very high and great clouds rolled over the island."

The priest paused in writing and rubbed his forehead thoughtfully. Would he and his ardent little congregation be able to build the church they had envisioned? Lava rock was easy to come by, but they wanted coral too, and that was almost dangerous to harvest. And now this great storm...

He looked at the shuttered windows, shaking and banging violently with the force of the rain. He could only hope all their work wouldn't be washed away by morning. Thunder shook the ground beneath his hut. He sighed, blew out his lamp, and went to bed.



In the morning, a great commotion from his native helpers disturbed the priest's prayers. He ran outside, expecting to see destruction and havoc.

The Hawaiians rushed toward him, gesturing and exclaiming, broad smiles beaming from their faces. On the beach, close to the site of the new church, was a massive pile of coral rock torn from the reef and cast upon the land by the storm.

Congregation and priest fell upon their knees in thanksgiving—and then they set to work, building their lovely St. Gabriel Church. The day after the church was finished, another immense storm lashed the island. By morning, all the leftover coral had returned to the sea. After that, St. Gabriel (now known as Our Lady of Fatima Shrine) became famous as the Coral Miracle Church.