

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  
evecoult@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



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# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## September 8, 2024



### Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 7	5:00 pm	+Pat Lasseter By Class of 1960
Sun Sep 8	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 8	10:30 am	+Gilberto Bello By Martha & John Laurent
Mon Sep 9	8:30 am	+Mirka Piec
Tue Sep 10	8:30 am	Christina Kjerrumgaard By Yvonne & Bill Kjerrumgaard
Thu Sep 12	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Sep 13	8:30 am	+Wilburt & +Cecelia Clouse By Theresa & George Cherry
Sat Sep 14	5:00 pm	+Ann Marie Duceman By Family
Sun Sep 15	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 15	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

### Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, Melvin Casey, , Alan English, Rachel Gohlman, Dorothy Guptill, Delores Hart, Austin Heath, Zachary Heath, Ivette Hernandez, Jennifer Hoffer, Mark Jansen, Missy Jansen, Stuart Jones, Bill Kjerrumgaard, Leon LaClair, Sara Long, Aaron Mills, Adam Mills, Zachary Mills, Scott Mize, Lacey Pate, , George Pizano, Karlee Severns, Richie Southwell, Chuck Spencer, Rise' St. Arno, Jeff Stidham, Murphy Stidham, Rita Taylor, Laura Webb

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

Sep 14, 2017	Msgr. Patrick Caverly
Sep 14, 2023	Rev. Roland Nadeau, MS
Sep 19, 2016	Very Rev. John M. McCormick
Sep 23, 1986	Rev. Louis Bamundo
Sep 27, 1995	Rev. Charles Schneider

LECTORS	SME
9/7-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Ann Spencer	Ann Slocum Kathleen Morris
9/8-10:30 am	
Maureen Leckie Unique Gonzalez	Maria Davila Martha Laurent
9/14-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Mike DeNeve	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
9/15-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Carolyn Picart	Theresa Cherry George Cherry

### Saint Thomas Collection

8/25	Regular	\$1953.16
	Maintenance	280.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

8/25	Regular	169.00
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### Diocesan Collection-September 15<sup>th</sup> Priest Retirement and Priest Care

### AMBASSADORS FOR "LIFE" CAMPAIGN

Hoping to extend a pro-life message throughout the Diocese of Orlando, Canadian artist Tim Schmalz donated a resin replica of the original "Life Monument" statue to JMJ Pregnancy Center in Kissimmee. The original statue hewn in bronze resides in Rome, and the replica will make its rounds to diocesan parishes, remaining for one month at a time.

Schmalz says the image of the Virgin Mary with Jesus in her womb is a response to those who say life begins at birth. His prayer is that the sculpture helps onlookers recognize the beauty and dignity of all life and remember their lives also began in the womb.

Scan the QR code below to learn more and reserve your very own piece of sacred art.



**The Women's Club will meet immediately after Mass on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## “WHY CAN’T WOMEN BECOME PRIESTS?”

It’s a question I am asked constantly by the young women with whom I work in my nonprofit. Most of the time it is not phrased combatively. They simply want to know, and most likely no one has ever explained it to them outside of simply “that’s the way Jesus did it.” Not an incorrect explanation, but also not satisfying for these girls, told by the world since birth that women belong in every role a man can have.

So, I utter a quick prayer to the Holy Spirit to grant me the right words, and I explain as faithfully as I can the role of the sacramental priesthood. Christ established the priesthood of the Church and we cannot alter it. I assure them that the lack of females in the apostolic succession was not a fluke. Jesus was not catering to the social norms of the time when he invited only men to the priesthood. The Creator of the Universe was not squeamish about asking women because he was attempting to be politically correct. Like everything else Christ did on earth, there was intentionality behind this decision. I explain, to the best of my ability, about gender complementarity, the feminine genius, the feminine nature of the Church, the Bride of Christ, and the masculine nature of the priesthood.

Once they understand that banning female ordination is not a sexist quirk in the Church, then we can tackle the next question: What is the proper role for women in the Church? Thankfully, this question is much easier, and there are hundreds of female saints whose lives I can point to, all of whom placed their lives in service to Christ and his Church.

The world tells us to value positions and titles, and to feel wronged when we do not receive what we feel we are owed. The many holy women venerated in the Church knew better. They did not ask what opportunities the Church could offer them. They asked God how they could serve his Church, and they poured out their very life answering his call.

*Kelly Marcum*

*Three years after ten Chinese Christians were jailed for illegally selling Bibles, one of them has been sentenced to a five-year prison term, and four remain jailed and awaiting trial.*

## THE ASTONISHING POWER OF ONE HAIL MARY

*If one Hail Mary has that power, imagine the power in a Rosary’s 50 Hail Marys.*

My favorite story of 2023 was “The Astonishing Power of One Hail Mary,” as it focused on how a single prayer we should not take for granted can change even the lives of strangers. Briefly, John Petrovich was jogging past a house and saw an ambulance in the driveway.

He had learned in childhood to say a prayer for those in need whenever he sees or hears an ambulance or police siren. He blessed himself and this time said a Hail Mary for the person inside.

The next week, as he ran on the same street, a woman stopped him. “You saved my life,” she told him. She described how she had blacked out and was dying.

Regaining consciousness in the hospital, she had a vision of Jesus, who told her, “Everything is going to be fine; you’re going to be fine because this person prayed for you.” She told Petrovich how “on the palm of His hand was your face. And I have to thank you for saving my life.” He was speechless.

This incident is a perfect example of how earnest prayer can “move mountains,” as Jesus said in the Gospel. If one Hail Mary has that power, imagine the power in a Rosary’s 50 Hail Marys. The prayerful man told the Register he is learning to put “more emphasis on why we should be praying for one another ... for other people in their needs and wants before us.”

*Joseph Pronechen*

The Tanzanian Archbishop Rénatus Leonard Nkwande of Mwanza, Tanzania, also spoke of Western NGOs distributing lubricants used in gay sex in his archdiocese, an effort that he said was stopped during the Trump administration but has increased during nearly four years of U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration.

Under President Biden, the promotion of LGBTQ ideology abroad has become a “core part” of U.S. foreign policy, with the Biden administration spending more than \$4 billion taxpayer dollars on related initiatives around the world.