



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 20, 2024

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
2. **October is the month of the Rosary.** Every Tuesday and Friday evening at 6:00 pm, we will pray the Rosary outdoors by the Virgin Mary. On Fridays, it will be followed by Benediction.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. **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.
8. 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.
9. 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>
10. 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.
11. In honor 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

Which saint saw her special place in hell? Behind every great saint, there is a great conversion. Most of us know St. Teresa of Ávila as a mystic, visionary, author, reformer, and foundress. She was all of these things, but she was also something more: she was a convert.

Born into Spanish nobility in the 16th century, Teresa entered the Carmelite Order at the age of 20. For nearly two decades, Teresa's life as a Carmelite was marked with inconsistency: she often suffered from ill health and grew in the spiritual life during her illnesses, but when she regained her health, she returned to indifference toward prayer.

Despite her own indifference, however, she frequently told other sisters within the monastery how they ought to pray and live the Carmelite life. Before long, they began pointing out her hypocrisy to her.

Finally, Our Lord Himself stepped in. One day, He took Teresa to a horrible place—a place so awful that words fail to describe it, but which she likened to a slimy, dark tunnel filled with an inexpressible stench.



This place, He told Teresa, was her very own place in hell. This was the spot reserved particularly for her, Teresa of Ávila, and which awaited her in the next life. He showed it to her that she might understand her danger, humble herself, and start to take her religious life more seriously.

Teresa did just that. From that day until her entrance into heaven, she clung to Christ as her Savior and Spouse, throughout all the heavy crosses and trials of her life. She not only grew consistent in prayer and her observance of the Carmelite Rule—she reached immense heights of mystical prayer and became the great reformer of the Carmelite Order. She is one of the Church's greatest teachers on prayer and a Doctor of the Church.