

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
evecoultter@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



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 2025

*Lord, it is good to
give thanks to you.*

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 1	5:00 pm	+Don Slocum By Ann Slocum
Sun Mar 2	8:00 am	+Veneranda & +Rosa Fernandez By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 2	10:30 am	For All Parishioners
Mon Mar 3	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 4	8:30 am	
Wed Mar 5	8:30 am	
Wed Mar 5	7:00 pm	
Thu Mar 6	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 7	8:30 am	+Jim Sowle By Ann Sowle
Sat Mar 8	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 9	8:00 am	+Juan & +Maria Prado By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 9	10:30 am	

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

Mar. 18, 1991 Rev. Paul Kajdan
 Mar. 20, 1982 Rev. Thomas Gross
 Mar. 22, 1972 Msgr. Martin Brendan Power
 Mar. 22, 2023 Rev. John J. Ryan
 Mar. 25, 1978 Rev. Sean Patrick Molloy



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

LECTORS	SME
3/1-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
3/2-10:30 am	
Angelika Almanzan Martha Laurent	Martha Laurent Maria Davila
3/5-8:30 am	
Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera	
3/5-7:00 pm	
Maureen Leckie Pat Lowery	
3/8-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Ann Spencer	Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera
3/9-10:30 am	
Unique Gonzalez Luke Almanzan	Bill Leckie Pattie Scott

Saint Thomas Collection

2/16	Regular	\$1796.00
	Maintenance	1684.67

Saint Elizabeth Collection

2/16	Regular	425.00
	Maintenance	30.00

COME TO PRAY

March 6 First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

March 7 First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2025

Please prayerfully consider getting involved in the Florida Catholic 20th Annual Long-Sleeve Relief Drive this Lenten Season. The drive will run through Holy Thursday. Clean and gently used light-colored, long-sleeve, button down shirts (men and women S, M & L sizes) are needed, and 100 percent cotton is preferred but not necessary.

There is a drop box in the narthex.

Pray for Pope Francis

ASHES

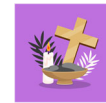
The Church has long used ashes as an outward sign of grief, a mark of humility, mourning, penance and morality. The Old Testament is filled with stories describing the use of ashes in such a manner. In the Book of Job, Job repented before God: "Therefore, I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes" (42:6). Daniel "turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Dn 9:3). Jonah preached conversion and repentance to the people of Nineveh: "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes" (Jon 3:6). And the Maccabees army prepared for battle: "That day they fasted and wore sackcloth; they sprinkled ashes on their heads and tore their garments" (1 Mc 3:47).

Ashes were imposed on the early catechumens when they began their preparation time for baptism. Confessed sinners of that era were also marked with ashes as part of the public penitential process. Other baptized Christians began asking to receive ashes in a manner similar to catechumens and penitents. Christian men had ashes sprinkled on their heads while ashes were used to trace the cross on the forehead of women. Thus the use of ashes as the sign of penance, in readiness for Easter, was becoming a Churchwide practice. During the papacy of St. Gregory the Great, the practice was further expanded and is mentioned in the sixth-century Gregorian Sacramentary. Around the year 1000, Abbot Aelfric of the monastery of Eynsham, England, wrote: "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the new that men who repented of their sins bestowed on themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent, that we strew ashes upon our heads, to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten feast" ("Aelfric's Lives of Saints," 1881, p. 263). This same rite of distributing ashes on the Wednesday that begins Lent was recommended for universal use by Pope Urban II at the Synod of Benevento in 1091.

So when we go to that early Mass on Ash Wednesday morning and receive the blessed

ashes on our forehead, we are repeating a somber, pious act that Catholics have been undergoing for over 1,500 years. As "The Liturgical Year, Septuagesima," by Abbot Gueranger, O.S.B., written in the middle decades of the 1800s, puts it: "We are entering, today, upon a long campaign of the warfare spoke of by the apostles: forty days of battle, forty days of penance. We shall not turn cowards, if our souls can but be impressed with the conviction that the battle and the penance must be gone through. Let us listen to the eloquence of the solemn rite which opens our Lent. Let us go whither our mother leads us, that is, to the scene of the fall."

Like all those before us, we unhesitatingly embrace this invitation to sanctity, this time to turn away from sin. We are part of that great cloud of witnesses who through all the ages have donned the ashes, publicly acknowledging that we are Christians, Christians who have sinned and seek to repent. We acknowledge that "we are dust and to dust we shall return."



ASH WEDNESDAY – March 5

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. Masses will be celebrated at St. Thomas at **8:30 am** and **7:00 pm**.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

Ash Wednesday's collections is for The Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE TIME!

Please return bottles filled with change, cash, checks and prayers. Make checks payable to Options for Women.

Spaghetti Dinner-Saturday, March 22
\$10.00/ Children 5 & Under Free