

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***



2nd Sunday of Lent March 16, 2025



TRANSFIGURATION

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 15	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 16	8:00 am	+Mr. & +Mrs. Clarence Grannon By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 16	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Mon Mar 17	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 18	8:30 am	
Thu Mar 20	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 21	8:30 am	
Sat Mar 22	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 23	8:00 am	+Mr. & +Mrs. Agustin Hiscano By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 23	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



Saturday, **March 22**
After 5:00 pm Mass
\$10/Kids 5 & under Free

LECTORS	EMHC
3/15-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Jessica Witmer	Maureen Leckie Susan DeNeve
3/16-10:30 am	
Alina Gutierrez Confirmandi	Theresa Cherry George Cherry
3/22-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Susan DeNeve
3/23-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Carrie Brown	Martha Laurent Pattie Scott

Saint Thomas Collection

3/2	Regular	\$2823.00
	Maintenance	425.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/2	Regular	852.00
	Maintenance	50.00

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Easter Flowers for the Church, please place your envelopes in the second collection. Envelopes can be found in the pews.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2025

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.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE TIME!

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



STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm



PREPARE YOURSELVES TO LIVE A EUCCHARISTIC LENT

Lent is about going spiritually to the state of the desert, about uniting ourselves to, and imitating, Jesus' fasting, praying and charity. It's a time to repent and believe.

We're summoned to render our hearts open to God, to reflect on the meaning and trajectory of our life, as we recall that we are dust and to dust we shall return. It's a period of mercy and conversion, of grace and holiness that we're supposed to receive fruitfully and not in vain.

Since Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit, the root and center of the Christian life, Lent, too, should draw its life from the Eucharistic Jesus and lead us to him. It's important, therefore, to look at our major Lenten practices through a Eucharistic lens.

The first is fasting. In the Gospel on Ash Wednesday, Jesus says to us, "When you fast ..." In contrast to many of Jesus' contemporaries, who fasted for show, supplication, penance and self-mastery, Jesus wants our fasting to be to bring into communion those parts of our life that are not yet united to him, those areas in which Jesus the Bridegroom has been "taken away" and is not yet present. Through Isaiah, God tells us that fasting is ultimately to learn to hunger for God and for what he hungers.

The reason why the Church has a discipline of fasting before receiving Holy Communion is to help us calibrate our appetites to God's. Jesus told us, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27).

Jesus has a huge hunger to feed us. His incarnation, hidden life, public ministry, passion, death and resurrection all culminated in his giving us his Body and Blood, the means by which he would fulfill his promise to be with us always until the end of time. Jesus' most eager desire, as he told us on Holy Thursday, was to celebrate "this Passover," the new and eternal covenant, with us. He wants us to hunger for him, to work for the food he himself will give us more than a greedy Wall Street trader works to make money. That's the ultimate purpose of our specifically Eucharistic fast as well as all fasting.

But our hunger to eat his flesh and drink his blood is meant to lead us to draw our whole life from him. A Eucharistic life extends beyond Mass.

A second major Lenten theme is the desert. Jesus calls us, especially in Lent, to "come away for a little while to a deserted place to rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Each Lent, the same Holy Spirit whom St. Luke tells us led Jesus into the desert wants to guide us into the desert with him, so that we, apart from distractions, in sacred silence, can prayerfully focus on who we are and on our relationship with God and others — and, with Christ's help, can confront and overcome the way that the devil seeks to distort those relations and that image.

Satan's final temptation in the desert was to promise Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would fall down and adore him. Jesus replied, "The Lord your God shall you adore, and him alone shall you serve" (Luke 4:8).

We're called to adore and serve the Lord. Pope Francis says that we're always adoring either the Lord or something or someone else. Eucharistic adoration helps crush our idols: our disproportionate focus on work, material possessions, entertainment, our families, or our egos. In the state of the desert, spending time with Jesus in prayerful adoration, we learn how to prioritize him, to unite all parts of life to him, and to ensure that he alone is our God. That's why Eucharistic adoration is so important in Lent and life.

The third Lenten practice is almsgiving. Giving himself to us in the Eucharist, Jesus seeks to transform us to live truly Eucharistic lives, giving our own body and blood out of love for others. Jesus began the celebration of the first Mass on Holy Thursday, washing the feet of the apostles as an example for them likewise to serve others with love.

Jesus prepared the apostles for the Eucharist through the miraculous multiplications of the loaves and fish, in which he sought to get them to share his mercy with the crowds. Our contact with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is meant to impel our charity. St. Teresa of Calcutta used to stress that the same Jesus who says, "This is my body," tells us, "I was hungry and you fed me."
(To be continued)