

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



3rd Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025



Mass Intentions

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	
Mon Mar 24	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 25	8:30 am	Geri Rowan
Thu Mar 27	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 28	8:30 am	
Sat Mar 29	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 30	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 30	10:30 am	+Dave Dillman By Linda Dillman

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



STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

LECTORS	EMHC
3/22-5:00 pm	
Pat Lowery Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
3/23-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Carrie Brown	Martha Laurent Pattie Scott
3/29-5:00 pm	
Maureen Leckie Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Maureen Leckie
3/30-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Maria Davila Bill Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

3/9	Regular	\$2168.00
	Maintenance	1028.00
	Diocesan	942.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/9	Regular	760.00
	Maintenance	37.00
	Diocesan	40.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Diocesan Collection for Catholic Relief Services/World Mission Sunday will take place next weekend.

EASTER FLOWERS

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

RUMMAGE SALE

The Women's Club Annual Rummage Sale is planned for the weekend of **October 17 & 18**.

If you have items for the sale, you can bring them to the Social Hall at any time. Just call the office, and someone will open the door for you. Pickup for large items is available.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2025

There is a drop box in the narthex for clean and gently used shirts.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE TIME!

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

PREPARE YOURSELVES TO LIVE A EUCCHARISTIC LENT

(continued from last week)

A final Lenten theme is the spiritual work of mercy of sharing the faith. On Ash Wednesday, St. Paul, as an ambassador of Christ, summons us to seize the day of salvation and be reconciled to God. Jesus' plan for us, just like his first followers, is that, after being with him, he can send us out as ardent apostles to complete his saving work. Lent is a time in which the Lord Jesus wants to renew us not just in holiness but Christian mission. The celebration of the Mass, in which we receive the Lord Jesus within, finishes with the Lord's blessing and the command, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

Our Eucharistic relationship with the Lord is meant to make us all ambassadors of Christ: God, as it were, appealing through us. In the Eucharist, we're called to recapitulate the mystery of the Visitation, in which Mary went with haste to take the in utero Savior to St. Elizabeth and St. John the Baptist; after receiving the same Lord Jesus in Holy Communion, we are similarly impelled urgently to bring Jesus to others so that his joy may be in us and our joy perfected can make them, too, leap for joy.

Right after the consecration, we underline this connection between Mass and mission. The priest says, "The Mystery of Faith," and we show the connection between our faith in Jesus' Real Presence and our sharing it in two different acclamations:

"We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again," and "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again."

In the Eucharist, we are called both to proclaim Jesus' self-giving death for us and our salvation as well as profess his resurrection, that the Eucharist is Jesus' risen Body and Blood, with us until the end of time in the new modality the Resurrection makes possible. Like the disciples in Emmaus after Jesus celebrated Mass in their home, we are called to go forth to share with

burning hearts the joy he gives when he comes into us.

We're all called to be contagious witnesses of the mind-blowing self-gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, to take him out in processions in monstrances and within ourselves, to help others learn to relate to him in his Eucharistic presence as those 2,000 years ago related to him in his tunic and sandals.

"Missionary outreach," Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, "is thus an essential part of the Eucharistic form of Christian life." The Eucharistic Jesus must be the central content of our sharing and living the faith, because the Eucharist is not a "thing" but the Lord himself.

This Lent is a sacred and propitious time to recommit ourselves to these essential Eucharistic dimensions of our Christian existence, as we, through fasting hunger for Christ in the Mass, go into the desert to adore him outside of Mass, are impelled by him within toward Eucharistic charity, and are commissioned by him to proclaim his presence by word and life.

JUDAS, JESUS, FRIEND

The word "friends" in the active sense indicates those who love you, but in the passive sense it indicates those whom you love. Jesus calls Judas friend (Mt 26:50), not because Judas loved him, but because he loved Judas! There is no greater love than giving one's life for one's enemies while considering them friends; this is what Jesus meant by his statement. People can be — or act as though they are — enemies of God, but God will never be the enemy of any human being.... Jesus died, crying out, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.... It is a peremptory request made with the authority that comes from being the Son: Father, forgive them!



**St. Thomas' Penance
Service will take place
on Tuesday, April 1st
at 7:00 pm.**