

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

(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***



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 30, 2025



## Mass Intentions

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
Mon Mar 31	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Tue Apr 1	8:30 am	Reba Valdez By Family
Thu Apr 3	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Apr 4	8:30 am	+Jim Sowle By Ann Sowle
Sat Apr 5	8:30 am	
Sat Apr 5	5:00 pm	
Sun Apr 6	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 6	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***

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

### **THANK YOU**

Thanks to the Women's Club for the successful spaghetti dinner.

LECTORS	EMHC
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
4/5-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Jessica Witmer	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
4/6-10:30 am	
Unique Gonzalez Confirmandi	Martha Laurent Maria Davila

### Saint Thomas Collection

3/16	Regular	\$2455.52
	Maintenance	495.00
	Easter Flowers	242.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/16	Regular	518.00
	Maintenance	26.00

### **SECOND COLLECTION**

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

### **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.

*I feel in my heart the "blessing" that is hidden within frailty, because it is precisely in these moments that we learn even more to trust in the Lord; at the same time, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to share in body and spirit the condition of so many sick and suffering people.*

*Pope Francis*

## THE CROSS DURING LENT

The saints are excellent teachers in how to pray, and one of the best examples of someone with a particular devotion to the Stations of the Cross is [Pope St. John Paul II](#). He prayed the stations not only every Friday during Lent, but every Friday of his life, right up until the day before he died. No wonder this man was so holy; no wonder he had such a deep and insightful understanding of redemptive suffering and God's love.

The Stations of the Cross are meant to help us experience what Christ went through in the Holy Land in the setting of our own parish. The Stations of the Cross originated with pilgrims going to Jerusalem and visiting the sites of the Passion. There are some Medieval references to the *Via Sacra* — which we call the *Via Dolorosa* today — which was walked by pilgrims in Jerusalem. After the Franciscans gained control of the holy sites in the Holy Land in the 13th century, their counterparts in Europe gradually brought over the practice of the stations for people who couldn't visit Jerusalem. Since then, Catholics have been praying the stations in who knows how many countries for centuries upon centuries! To pray the stations in a church where Christ is present in the tabernacle is a powerful experience.

In a contemporary space, we may take the Stations of the Cross for granted. After all, they are in every Catholic church. If we don't pay attention, they can blend into the background of our worship. Perhaps your church gathers to pray the stations on Friday evenings during Lent. But maybe this time isn't convenient for you, due to work schedules, other commitments.

That doesn't mean the stations can only be part of your Lenten practice. The stations are always present in our churches. In our church of St. Thomas we have the stations outdoors too which means we can be creative about how and when we spend time with them.



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm



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

Reconciliation sounds great as an idea, but how do you reconcile with someone who's bitterly hurt you and won't even acknowledge that he or she has done wrong? Isn't forgiveness a two-way street?

Forgiving those who hurt us is our business. Making our forgiveness contingent on the other person's admission of guilt is just another way of demanding justice and insisting on our "rights." That's a subtle form of pride. Jesus forgave his murderers even as they mocked him on the cross. His forgiveness was a free gift, no strings attached. We can't follow him unless we do the same.

However, you're right that when a breach exists between two people, it can't be healed unless both sincerely want it healed. Even then, someone or something has to provide a means of bringing them back together. That's God's role. Reconciliation is the work of God. Seeking reconciliation is our work. We need to do whatever we can to make peace with others, and then leave the rest in the hands of God.

## COME TO PRAY

**April 3** 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.

**April 4** First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**April 5** First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.

## WOMEN'S CLUB RUMMAGE SALE 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.