

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  
evecoult@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

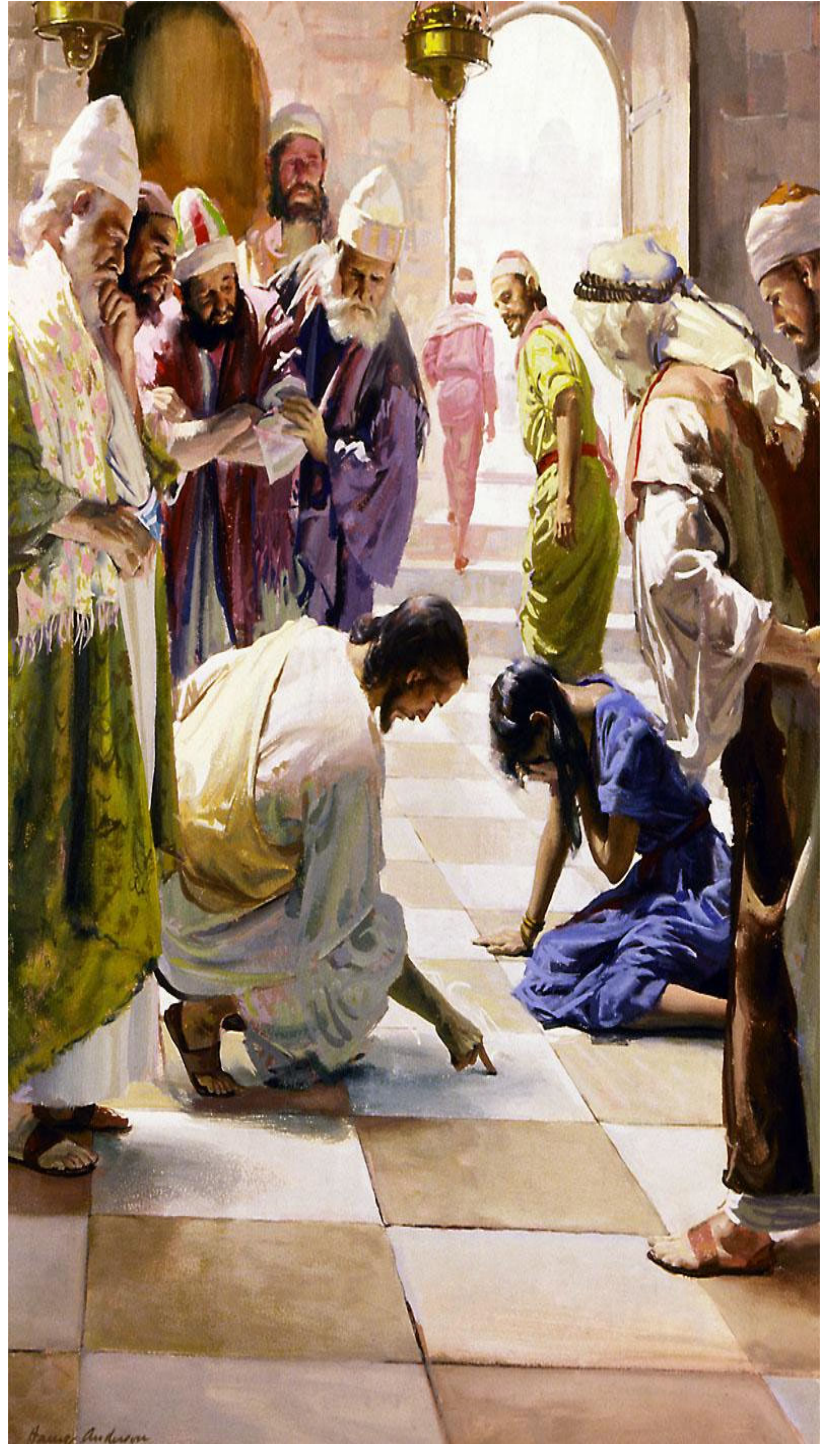
[www.stthomasbartow.org](http://www.stthomasbartow.org)

**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*



# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent April 6, 2025



## Mass Intentions

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
Mon Apr 7	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Tue Apr 8	8:30 am	+Paily By Family
Thu Apr 10	8:30 am	+Sijo Devassy By Family
Fri Apr 11	8:30 am	+Mariyam Paily By Family
Sat Apr 12	5:00 pm	
Sun Apr 13	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 13	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, Murphy Stidham, Rita Taylor, Laura Webb

### ***Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests***

Apr 6, 2018	Rev. Edward Hamilton
Apr 14, 2024	Rev. Clyde Bonar
Apr 17, 2017	Rev. Domingo Gonzalez
Apr 19, 2012	Rev. John Walsh
Apr 21, 2002	Most Rev. Thomas Grady
Apr 21, 2018	Rev. Eduardo Benitez
April 24, 2023	Rev. Sean Heslin
Apr 28, 1985	Rev. Luis Maris Padilla
Apr 29, 2014	Msgr. Terence Farrelly



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

LECTORS	EMHC
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
4/12-5:00 pm	
Evelyn Rivera Ruth Palmer Barbara Van Orsdale- Passion	Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera
4/13-10:30 am	
Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan Martha Laurent-Passion	Bill Leckie Pattie Scott

### Saint Thomas Collection

3/23	Regular	\$2137.00
	Maintenance	453.00
	Easter Flowers	126.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/23	Regular	255.00
	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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Women's Club Meeting immediately after Mass on April 13<sup>th</sup>

## THE SACRED TRIDUUM IS THE REAL SUMMIT OF THE EUCHARIST

*In the run-up to Easter, we ought to live Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with a particularly Eucharistic focus.*

For understandable reasons, many look at the celebration of Corpus Christi as the apex of the Eucharistic Revival.

The Solemnity of the Lord's Body and Blood has served, since 1264, as the annual feast to "dare to do all we can," as St. Thomas Aquinas urged in his liturgical sequence for the day, to thank the Lord Jesus for the *res mirabilis*, the wondrous gift of himself in the Blessed Sacrament.

The real liturgical summit, like all aspects of our faith, must be the Sacred Triduum, when we celebrate what gave us the gift of the Eucharist we celebrate on Corpus Christi. We ought to live Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter vigil with a particularly Eucharistic focus.

The reality is that, often, we don't focus enough on the Eucharistic dimension of the Triduum during the Triduum. One of the reasons why there was a need for the institution of Corpus Christi in the first place, according to the Lord's 12th-century revelations to St. Juliana of Liège that helped prepare for the solemnity, was because a focused celebration of the Lord's Eucharistic presence was absent from the Church's calendar.

On Holy Thursday, the Church normally focuses on three things: the institution of the Holy Eucharist, yes, but also the institution of the priesthood, through whom Christ makes himself present, and his call for priests to imitate Jesus in washing the feet of the world.

Despite the Eucharistic procession within our churches at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper and a period of extended adoration of the Lord in a much-decorated altar of repose, the focus of the faithful is often on accompanying Jesus in his abandonment, blood-and-sweat-filled prayers, sufferings and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Similarly, on Good Friday, when Jesus gave his body and poured out his blood for us on Calvary, our concentration is normally on his enormous sufferings and death and in begging forgiveness

for our sins that caused his crucifixion. The reception of Jesus in Holy Communion at the end of the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion is often experienced as relatively anti-climactic, compared to the reading or singing of the Passion according to St. John, the veneration of the cross, and even the prayers of the Stations of the Cross, the preaching of "The Seven Last Words" and the beginning of the Novena to Divine Mercy.

During the Easter vigil, much of our attention goes to its unique elements — the *lucernarium* with its fire, blessing of the Paschal candle, procession and singing of the *Exultet*; the 17-course meal of Sacred Scripture and prayers that comprise the Liturgy of the Word; and then the baptismal liturgy with the candles, litany, the blessing of the Easter water, the baptism and confirmation of our new brothers and sisters, the renewal of our baptismal promises — rather than the Liturgy of the Eucharist, during which we have the awesome privilege to receive Jesus' Risen Body and Blood and thereby experience a participation in eternal life even now.

And so it would be helpful during this time to shine a spotlight on the Eucharistic dimension of all we live during the Triduum. On Holy Thursday, through the Liturgy of the Word we see an explicit link to the Eucharistic dimension of the Last Supper.

In the first reading, we focus on the Jewish Passover, which was God's preparation, 13 centuries before, for what Jesus would fulfill in the Upper Room. It's a great time to focus on Jesus as the Lamb of God and how, like the Jews, we are called to consume the Lamb. It's also an opportunity to ponder Jesus' Precious Blood, which isn't wiped on lintels, but poured within us. It's likewise a chance to focus on the dimension of the Eucharist as a "memorial feast" and "perpetual institution," making live in time what Jesus himself did on that most sacred night.

The Psalm focuses us on taking up the cup of salvation to thank the Lord for all the good he has done for us, which is precisely what we do in the Mass.

(to be continued)