



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 13, 2025

1. **Abstinence (no meat) on Fridays during Lent.**
2. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
3. **Greece in Footsteps of St. Paul with Greek Isle Cruise & Medjugorje.** Fr. Eugene has accepted an offer of Spiritual Director, 206 Tour 161-A, September 26 – October 10, 2025. You can find the details on the trip by clicking on the link <https://www.206tours.com/cms/tour161a/>. To see the prices, click on Dates & Prices, select September 26 – October 10. Father is leaving from Tampa. You can also click on the button "Fr. Eugene's Pilgrimages on the website homepage to see the details of the trip. If you are only interested in **Greece in Footsteps of St. Paul with Greek Isle Cruise** without Medjugorje, you would choose Tour 161, September 26 – October 6. He will be Spiritual Director on both tours.
4. **The obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored three years ago on Palm Sunday 2022.** Regular attendance at Mass is what fulfills God's commandment to "Keep holy the Sabbath Day". Our world is hurting. We all need healing yet many of us are separated from the source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist.
5. Our Parish bulletin can be viewed weekly online by clicking on the Bulletin button on our website at www.stthomasbartow.org. A new button has been added that you can also see the previous week's bulletin. If you do not have access to the internet, please let the office know, and copies can be printed. If you look at the bulletin on your phone, you can add an icon to your homepage by doing the following steps for an iphone. 1.

Do a search for stthomasbartow.org. 2. When the page opens, Click (touch) the small square with an arrow pointing up on the bottom of the screen. **3. Scroll** down and (touch “Add to Home Screen”. **4. Click** (touch) “Add” in the upper right-hand corner. The next time you want to view the website, you only have to touch the new icon on your home page screen. If you need help finding the website or creating the icon on your phone, call the office or stop in the narthex after Mass for help. If you have an Android phone, please call the office for directions.

6. To subscribe to Bishop John Noonan’s E-Scroll, news from the Diocese of Orlando go to www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/. Just provide your name and email address.
7. Fr. Blake Britton, a priest in our Diocese, who is now at the Pontifical Institute of St. John Paul II in Washington DC for further studies, has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. If you would like to purchase the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>
8. Bishop Robert Barron, author, speaker, theologian and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry, is producing a Bible series. Volume I focuses on the Gospels, Volume II on Acts, Letters, and Revelation, and Volume III, The Pentateuch. All can be ordered at <https://wordonfire.org/bible>. There will be a total of seven volumes. If you would like to subscribe to Bishop Barron’s newsletter, go to <https://wordonfire.org/#newsletter> and just provide your email address.
9. In honor of Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN catholic television network, please consider a gift of \$10, \$20, or \$25 per month or any amount you choose.
10. The annual Women’s Club Rummage Sale is planned for Friday and Saturday, 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.

Catholic Trivia

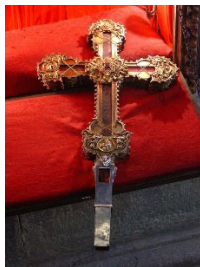
What happened to the true cross? How did the Church find the relics from Jesus' crucifixion? Have you ever wondered what happened to Jesus' cross? Known as the "True Cross," for hundreds of years this highly-venerated relic was thought to be lost. Anti-Christian Romans sought to stifle any effort to spread the Good News; that included destroying objects from Jesus' crucifixion. According to tradition, the True Cross was buried in the ground with the crosses of the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus.

Almost 300 years later, after the Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity, he sent his mother, St. Helena, to the Holy Land in search of the True Cross. According to legend, St. Helena followed in Jesus' footsteps by performing corporal works of mercy—such as feeding the hungry and visiting the sick—on her way to Jerusalem. Once in the Holy Land, some legends say a commoner led her to the True Cross, while others believe that St. Judas Cyriacus helped her find it.

St. Helena found all three crosses buried in the ground, but wasn't sure which one belonged to Jesus. There are many different legends about how St. Helena and the bishop of Jerusalem confirmed which one was the True Cross. One account claims the bishop of Jerusalem had an ill woman touch all three crosses. As soon as the woman touched the True Cross, she was healed.

Upon discovering the True Cross, St. Helena ordered a church to be constructed on the site where she found it. This church is known as the Church of the Resurrection, or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. St. Helena brought a piece of the True Cross back to the empire's capital city, Constantinople, and left another part at the Church of the Resurrection, where Christians made a yearly pilgrimage to see the relic.

Throughout the next thousand years, the piece of the True Cross at the Church of the Resurrection changed hands many times. It was captured in 614 by the Sassanid emperor, and then restored to Jerusalem by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius. Later, when the Islamic rulers took Jerusalem at the beginning of the 11th century, Greek Orthodox Christians protected and hid



Relic of the True Cross (Photo: [Díez Martín, Fransisco/CC BY-SA 2.5](#))

the relic of the True Cross, a small piece of the wood embedded in a gold cross.

This relic was restored to the Church of the Resurrection when Europeans in the First Crusade captured Jerusalem. Finally, in 1187, it was captured by Saladin, the leader of the Muslim military campaign against the Crusader states in Levant. This piece of the True Cross has never returned and was last seen in the city of Damascus.