

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

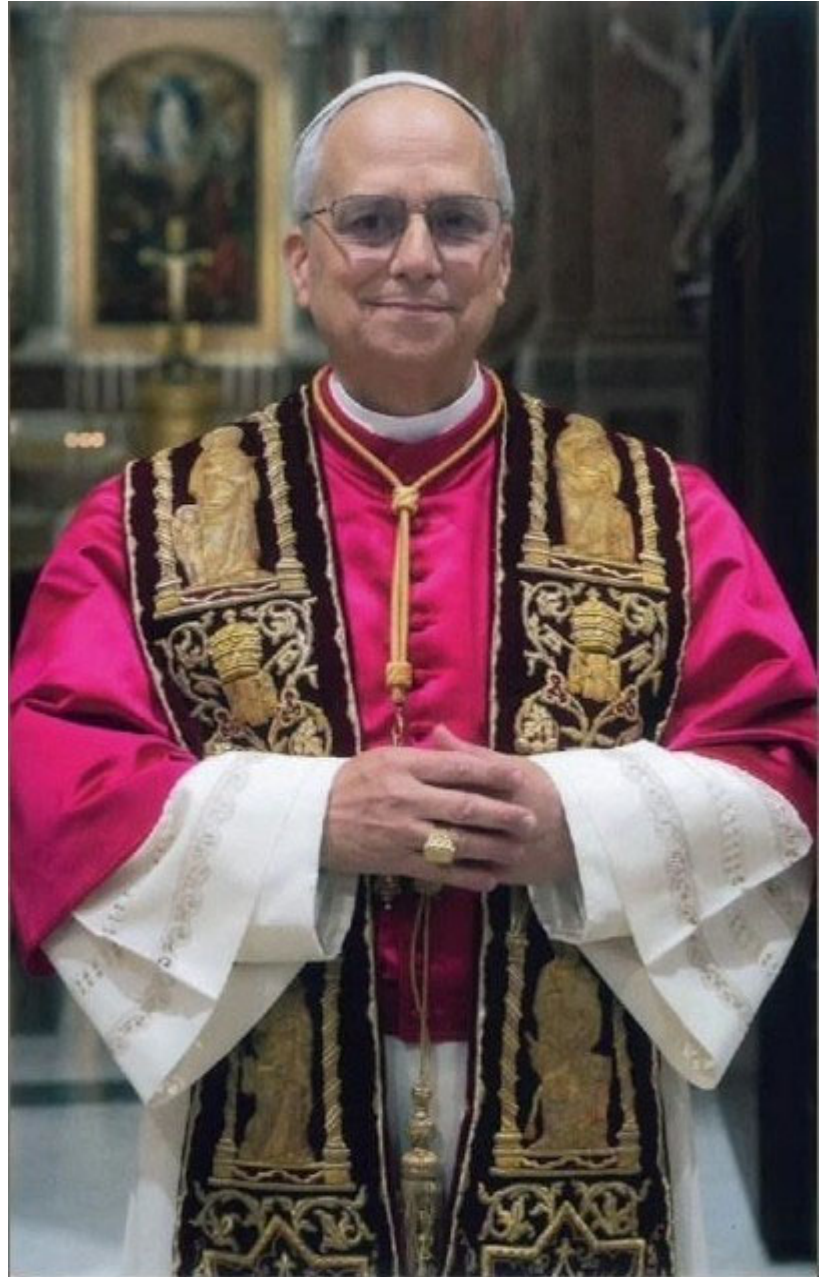
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

Email: office@stthomasbartow.org
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



Pope Leo XIV

5th Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat May 17	5:00 pm	+Mary Nemenz By Family
Sun May 18	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 18	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Mon May 19	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Tue May 20	8:30 am	
Thu May 22	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri May 23	8:30 am	
Sat May 24	5:00 pm	
Sun May 25	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 25	10:30 am	+Jimmy Hooks & +Kimberly Worth By Maria & Rick Davila

Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, Melvin Casey, Debbie Coffman, 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, Kathleen Morris, Lacey Pate, , George Pizano, Karlee Severns, Richie Southwell, Chuck Spencer, Murphy Stidham, Rita Taylor, Laura Webb

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests

May 1, 2005 Rev. John Garvy
May 6, 2013 Rev. Patrick O'Carroll
May 20, 2010 Rev. James John MacLoughlin
May 30, 2020 Msgr. Fachtna Joseph Harte



May the Month of Mary

LECTORS	EMHC
5/17-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Maureen Leckie	Pat Lowery Susan DeNeve
5/18-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Rick Davila	Theresa Cherry George Cherry
5/24-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Carolyn King	Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera
5/25-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Maureen Leckie Bill Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

5/4	Regular	\$2383.00
	Maintenance	545.00
	Mother's Day	346.00
	Diocesan	5.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

5/4	Regular	392.00
	Maintenance	50.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's 2nd collection is a Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), a collection approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to be taken every three years. The AMS provides pastoral care to Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled at a U.S. Military Academy, being treated as a patient at any of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or who work for the federal government beyond U.S. borders. The AMS does not receive any funding from the government or military, and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Cirilo Cati, Jacob Palma Cuahutenango, Jonathon Flores, Jovanna Fores, and Paloma Jimenez Vargas who celebrated their First Communion on May 11th and to Victor Gonzalez, Avalyn Jolie Hernandez, Sofia Islas, Steve Martinez, Marisa Rodriguez, and Jesus Antonio Angeles Vazquez who were confirmed on May 6th.

WHAT ABOUT MARY

Do Catholics worship Mary?

1: Catholics don't worship or adore Mary because we worship only God, and Mary is not God.

2: We venerate her, honor her, and love her as Jesus' mother and our Heavenly Mother.

Why do Catholics venerate Mary?

Mary herself gives the reason in her "Magnificat" recorded by St. Luke (1:48-49) *"For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and Holy is his Name."*

1) God has honored Mary in four ways, and we honor her because God honored her:

- a) He chose her as the mother of His Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah.
- b) In preparation for this role, God made her "Full of grace" by her Immaculate Conception.
- c) He anointed her twice with His Holy Spirit: at the Annunciation and at Pentecost, making her the most Spirit-filled of all women.
- d) God allowed her to participate actively in Christ's suffering and death, suffering in soul all Jesus suffered in body.

2) Mary is our Heavenly Mother, given to us by Jesus from the cross.

Mary is our role model for all virtues, particularly, love, fidelity, humility, obedience, surrender to the will of God, and patience.

THE VIRGIN OF ALMUDENA

Every Nov. 9, the Church in Spain celebrates the Virgin of Almudena, the patroness of Madrid, whose image "hides" a peculiar story that might not be familiar to many.

During the Muslim invasion of the Iberian Peninsula in the eighth century, the faithful decided to hide an image of the Virgin Mary in one of the towers of the wall that surrounded the Spanish capital. They placed it there in order to protect the statue, since during that time the Muslims eliminated all signs of Catholicism that crossed their path.

Years later, the Spanish tried to recover the image, although without success, since they were unable to find the exact place in the wall where the Virgin had been hidden.

Because of this, King Alfonso VI decided to hold a procession around the wall in honor of the Virgin, which took place on Nov. 9, 1085.

While the faithful processed around Madrid's wall, part of the wall of one of the towers collapsed. Behind the rubble appeared the image of the Virgin next to two lighted candles.

Since then, the image has been known as the Virgin of Almudena, since in Arabic "al-mudayna" means "citadel," or "walled military compound." Under this title, Our Lady was named patroness of the city by decree in 1908.

On the hill where the statue of the Virgin of Almudena was found, a cathedral in her honor was later built, a symbol of the faith of the people of Madrid. It is visited by thousands of tourists every year.

A RICH SOURCE OF GRACE

Eucharistic Adoration is one of the richest sources of graces for souls.

After the Sacrifice of the Mass and the reception of Holy Communion, visiting the Blessed Sacrament is one of the richest sources of grace for souls. The memorable words of Pope St. Pius X, the Pope of the Eucharist, show us clearly how he regarded such visits: "The daily adoration or visit to the Blessed Sacrament is the practice which is the fountainhead of all devotional works." In these daily visits, therefore, St. Pius X recognized the root of Eucharistic devotions.

By daily visiting the Blessed Sacrament, we follow the footsteps of the first Christians. In the catacombs were frequently found representations of the shepherds and the Magi kneeling before the Infant Jesus. Animated by the living faith that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, with Divinity and Humanity, with Body and Soul, with Flesh and Blood, these early Christians said with the shepherds, "Let us go to Bethlehem"; with the Magi, "falling down they adored him." (Matt. 2:11)