

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: 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



PENTECOST
Holy Spirit

Pentecost Sunday

June 8, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat Jun 7	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Jun 8	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family
Mon Jun 9	8:30 am	
Tue Jun 10	8:30 am	
Thu Jun 12	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jun 13	8:30 am	For All Parishioners
Sat Jun 14	5:00 pm	For All Fathers
Sun Jun 15	10:30 am	For All Fathers

There will be no Sunday Mass at Saint Elizabeth during June, July, and August

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

June 1, 2001	Rev. Albert Fornace
June 10, 1976	Rev. Paul Woodyard
June 10, 2021	Rev. Franklin Salazar
June 11, 2024	Rev. Peter Puntal
June 20, 2021	Rev. Peter Henry
June 22, 1990	Msgr. Michael Beerhalter
June 21, 2023	Rev. Sean Cooney
June 27, 1976	Rev. William Corry
June 28, 1993	Rev. Mariano Coba

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will meet immediately after Mass on Sunday, **June 8**.

LECTORS	EMHC
6/7-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Evelyn Rivera	Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera
6/8-10:30 am	
Pat Lowery Unique Gonzalez	George Cherry Theresa Cherry
6/14-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Barbara Van Orsdale	Pat Lowery Doug Van Orsdale
6/15-10:30 am	
Alina Gutierrez Ryan Curtis	Bill Leckie Maureen Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

5/25	Regular	\$1733.00
	Maintenance	20.00
	Father's Day	56.00
	Diocesan	393.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

5/25	Regular	253.00
	Maintenance	110.00

FATHER'S DAY ENVELOPES

Special Father's Day Masses will be celebrated on **June 14th, 15th, and 16th**. Please return your envelopes before June 14th. Father's Day is a reminder to pray for our Fathers.



Going to Mass and [receiving Communion](#) are signs of putting one's trust in God and understanding He is the one who gives the courage and strength to live life to the fullest no matter how little one has.

When we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the sign of the Eucharist is what makes visible that the Lord is in us and we in him.

Like two lovers embracing each other, looking into each other's eyes, saying words of trust and love to each other — this is what happens when we celebrate the Eucharist. And if this is true for people of faith, then what else do we need to start living again?

A CATHOLIC CONVERT'S TESTIMONY

As soon as my family and I began the conversion process, we were inundated with strange occurrences in our home, but a house blessing and enthronement of the Sacred Heart brought us the peace of Jesus Christ.

After months of prayer, study and preparation, my husband and I joyfully received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. As a newly initiated Catholic, I am grateful to fully participate in the faith and experience God's graces in a welcoming parish community. But the journey to the Easter Vigil Mass was also filled with spiritual challenges that I did not anticipate.

Before our conversion, my family belonged to a contemporary non-denominational church, where we packed into an auditorium with large video screens, theologically weak music and a feel-good "prosperity gospel" preacher. Our two young children looked forward to the crafts at Sunday school, while we enjoyed fellowship with other young families, but ambivalence eventually crept in. Church became more like a social club than a source of spiritual nourishment and worship.

In an attempt to invigorate my faith, I began to study the history of the early Church and discovered that the beliefs and practices closely aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Intrigued, I reported my findings to my husband and asked if he would be willing to attend Mass with me, and he agreed. We were both instantly drawn to the tradition, liturgy and sacraments of the Church. After several more visits, we concluded that the Catholic Church held the fullness of Christian faith, and our next step was to become Catholic. Days later, we enrolled in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes to begin our conversion.

Almost as soon as we began the RCIA process, we were inundated with strange occurrences in our home. Lights turned on in rooms where no one had entered. A large arched windowpane inexplicably shattered, sending thousands of shards of glass all over the floor. Our kitchen sink pipe leaked water. Our toilets overflowed. Our septic system

overflowed. Our washing machine leaked water, so we replaced it. Then the brand-new machine leaked water, but the technician found no issues. Our refrigerator mysteriously stopped cooling, so we replaced it. Our air conditioner broke, so we replaced that as well. Then our new thermostat dramatically changed temperatures without being touched, and the technician could offer no explanation. Water slowly dripped from a wooden door frame. The television screen changed colors — or stopped working altogether — when we tried to stream daily Mass.

We endured these types of events for months. It pummeled our finances. The prevailing mood in the household was negative and stressful — particularly for my husband, who was responsible for the bills that were piling up quickly. Since we had never experienced anything like this before, we quickly wondered if there was a connection between these unpleasant occurrences and our church attendance. The episodes often occurred within hours of returning home from RCIA or Mass, making the spiritual connection even harder to avoid. When our second air conditioning unit broke, my husband wondered if it would be better to stop the RCIA process rather than endure more damage to our household and finances. I asked him to persevere "just one more week" (a phrase I repeated to him several times as a catechumen). We trusted God in the process, but I felt discouraged during a season that I assumed would be filled with great positivity and excitement.

(To be continued next week)

SUMMER FUN WITH JESUS

WEDNESDAY'S 5:00-7:00 Pm

JUNE 11 - JULY 9

Pray, Play, Games, Helping Others, Crafts
-Food, Drinks, Snacks, Provided-

FREE
Ages 4-18

Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"



Register in person
Any Questions Please Call
863-327-2607- Martina

St Thomas Aquinas Bastow