

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
evecoulter@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

Thursday 7:00 pm

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!

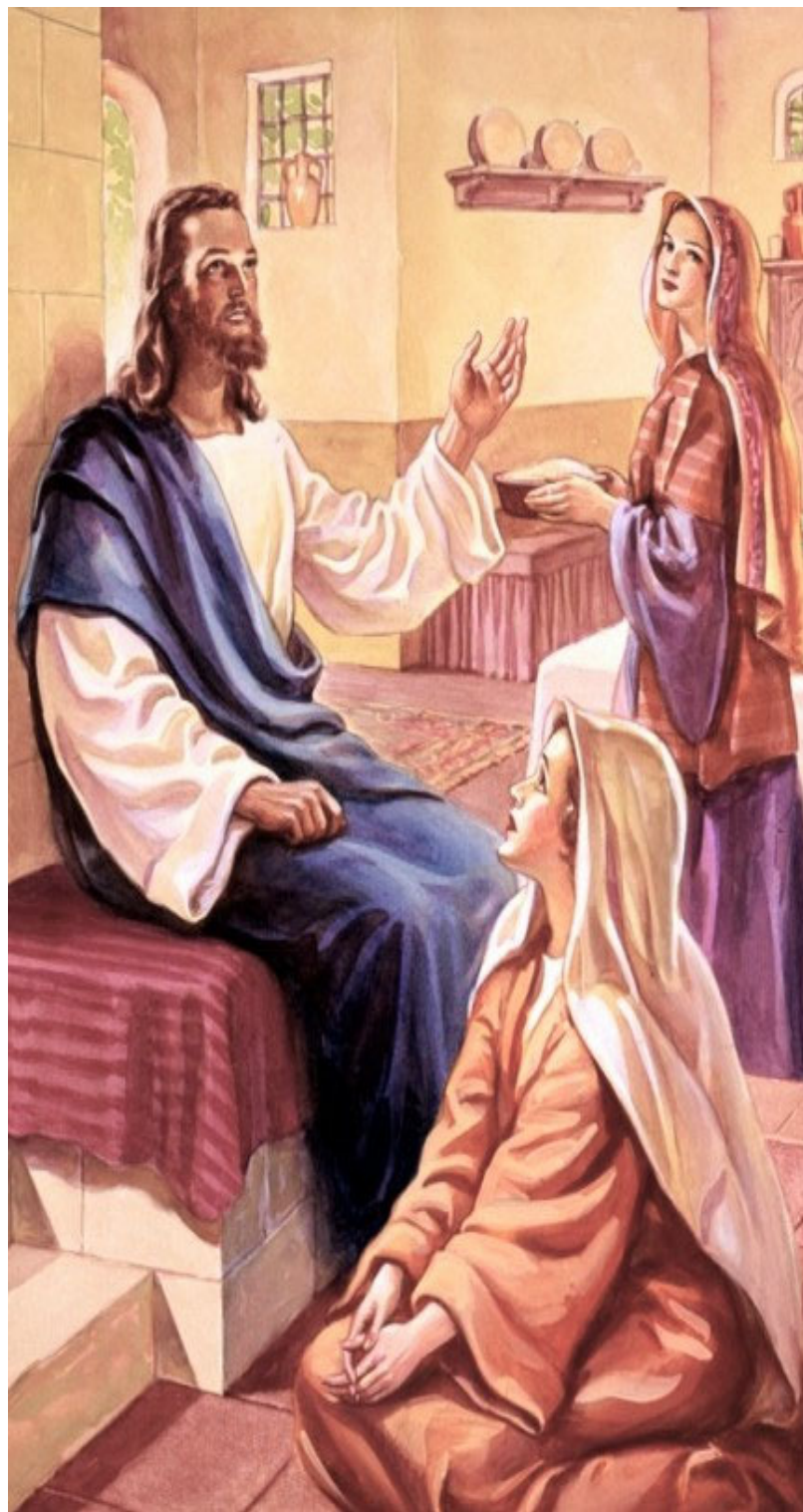
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orlando



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat Jul 19	5:00 pm	Anthony J. Tessier & Alicia M. Tessier
Sun Jul 20	10:30 am	+Banesa Herrera
Mon Jul 21	8:30 am	Salvatorians
Tue Jul 22	8:30 am	
Thu Jul 24	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jul 25	8:30 am	
Sat Jul 26	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Jul 27	10:30 am	Badinas Family, +Narcisco Golosino, +Rustico Badinas By Alicia Rogan

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

July 1, 2023	Rev. John (Stan) Murray
July 7, 1988	Rev. Arthur Dunnigan
July 10, 2005	Rev. Joseph Achilles Nolin
July 14, 2018	Msgr. Valentine Sheedy
July 15, 2016	Rev. Frank Mutsko
July 18, 1992	Rev. Paul Couming
July 22, 2017	Rev. Felix Baños
July 26, 2022	Rev. Francis X.J. Smith

God is very real and active and desires a deep, daily relationship with people. God has drawn near to people and continues to draw near to them through His Church. He wants to walk beside them every day, guiding them through a treacherous world toward heaven and joy-filled life for eternity.

LECTORS	EMHC
7/19-5:00 pm	
Pat Lowery Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Pat Lowery
7/20-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Ryan Curtis	Martha Laurent Theresa Cherry
7/26-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Carolyn King	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
7/27-10:30 am	
Xochitl Ochoa-Vargas Carrie Brown	Maria Davila Pattie Scott

Saint Thomas Collection

7/6	Regular	\$4816.00
	Maintenance	341.00
	Diocesan	50.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

7/6	Regular	855.00
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SECOND COLLECTION

This week's second collection will be for Catholic University of America and Catholic Communication Campaign.

THE HEAVENLY BEAUTY OF WEDDING RINGS



This 19th-Century Mystic Could Miraculously Sense the Presence of the Eucharist, Blessed Objects — and Wedding Rings

Many years ago in Belgium, in a little village called Bois d'Haine, there lived a beautiful young woman named Louise Lateau. Although she never married, she shone a brilliant light on the beauty of wedding rings.

Born in 1850, Louise loved Jesus very much and had a particular devotion to his Passion. And every Friday, she experienced an ecstasy for many hours at a time. In modern times, the word *ecstasy* is often used to refer to physical pleasure, but a *mystical* ecstasy — or *supernatural* ecstasy — is far different. In a

“supernatural ecstasy,” as the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) explains, “the mind rivets its attention on a religious subject” to such a degree that “the activity of the senses is suspended.”

In Louise’s case, the “religious subject” was the scenes of Jesus’ Passion; on many Fridays, she also saw Mary, the Mother of God. And notwithstanding the encyclopedia’s definition, Louise’s ecstasies had somewhat of a twist. The rumor began to spread that, in the state of ecstasy, Louise was able to distinguish between *ordinary items* (a picture, jewelry, a piece of bread) and *holy items*. It was said that the ecstatic Louise could immediately discern, for instance, between a blessed holy card and an unblessed holy card. For another example, if an unconsecrated host were in her room, Louise would have no reaction or response. But if a consecrated Host — that is, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus — were in her room, she would be clearly and powerfully elated.

Of course, the idea that Louise could possibly do this was quite a claim; it would be a miracle — pure and simple. As you might imagine, some doctors and psychologists believed she was simply faking the whole thing — at least at first. So the doctors began to run a series of experiments on Fridays during her ecstatic experiences.

Plenty of experiments.

The French Catholic physician Dr. Antoine Imbert-Gourbeyre, who conducted many experiments on Louise, wrote that more than 1,000 experiments were conducted on Louise’s ability to discern ordinary items from holy things. It’s important to note that these tests were largely done by various doctors who possessed an animosity toward the Catholic Faith.

In one such test, Louise was presented with a holy picture that was unblessed. To that image, she was unmoved. But when that exact same picture was secretly blessed by a priest and re-presented to Louise, she became overjoyed.

After 1,000 such tests, many of which were intentionally tricky, Dr. Imbert-Gourbeyre notes that Louise was correct 998 times. Was she just a good guesser? For statistical clarity on how amazing that would be, we can point out that the

odds of picking heads and tails correctly 49 times out of 50 would be about one in 22 trillion. But Lateau chose correctly 499 times out of 500. Clearly, Louise was blessed by God with a gift.

And this brings us to, as Paul Harvey famously used to say, “the rest of the story.”

In one of these tests, the Count of Beaufort had an interesting idea. He placed an unblessed ring in front of Louise, to which she was completely unresponsive. But separately, he placed his wedding ring in front of her. As a Catholic, his wedding ring had been blessed during his matrimonial ceremony — making the ring a sacramental. As the Catechism explains, sacramentals “are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church” (CCC 1667). Thus, a blessed wedding ring is a sacramental.

And when that wedding ring — that wondrous sacramental — was presented to Louise, she trembled and smiled.

In her state of ecstasy, Louise expressed a truth far more meaningful than any jeweler will ever tell you. Your wedding ring is a sacramental, signifying a sacrament. That is a majestic claim of what is otherwise only a little bit of metal accompanied a tiny stone.

There is a saying in the jewelry industry that “diamonds are forever.” They are not: diamonds will eventually turn to dust. What *is* forever is the effect of the sacrament of Matrimony — a sacrament designed to help us, and others, gain eternal life. That is something to think about the next time you look at your wedding ring, and the wedding ring on the finger of your spouse.

John Clark

“God does not love us because we are valuable; we are valuable because he loves us.”

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

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