



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

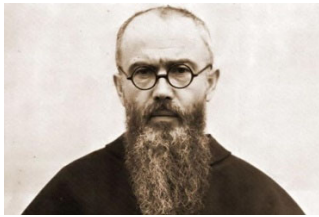
August 10, 2025

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
2. **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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

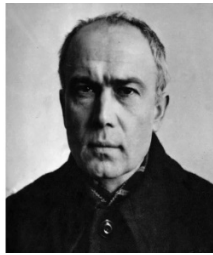
5. Fr. Blake Britton, a priest in our Diocese, who is now at the Pontifical Institute of St. John Paul II in Washington DC for further studies, has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. If you would like to purchase the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>
6. Bishop Robert Barron, author, speaker, theologian and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry, is producing a seven volume Bible series. Volume I focuses on the Gospels, Volume II on Acts, Letters, and Revelation, Volume III, on The Pentateuch, Volume IV on The Promised Land and Volume V on Exile and Return. All are all available now at <https://wordonfire.org/bible>. Volume VI The Wisdom Literature and Volume VII The Profits will be released at a later date. If you would like to subscribe to Bishop Barron's newsletter, go to <https://wordonfire.org/#newsletter> and just provide your email address.
7. 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.
8. The annual Women's Club Rummage Sale is planned for Friday and Saturday, October 17 & 18. If you have items to donate, 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

After the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, St. Maximilian Kolbe shaved his beard so as not to stand out.



St. Maximilian Kolbe



St. Maximilian Kolbe, pictured just prior to his arrest on Feb. 17, 1941.



Relic - Beard

Aug. 14 is the feast day of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a saint best known for his heroic martyrdom at Auschwitz in 1941, when he volunteered to be executed in place of another prisoner.

The only part of Maximilian Kolbe's body that still exists is his signature long beard, which a fellow friar managed to save before the saint's death. The rest of his body was incinerated in Auschwitz after the Nazis murdered him.

The friars of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word keep a relic of Kolbe's beard, gifted to EWTN.

Kolbe, also a Franciscan friar, chose to keep the beard he had grown upon his return from six years of missionary work in Japan. In those days, it was customary for missionaries to grow long beards, and Kolbe wanted to keep it as a reminder of his missionary days and as a reminder to always be a "missionary" of the Gospel.

Kolbe eventually, after the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, made the decision to shave so as not to stand out. Kolbe's founding of the Militia Immaculata (MI), an evangelization movement identifying with Mary, had put him high on Nazi watchlists.

After a fellow friar cut off Kolbe's beard for him, the friar at first tried to save the beard, but Kolbe objected and told him to throw it in the stove. So, obediently, the friar threw it into the stove, but the fire was not lit, so the friar later retrieved it and stored it in a pickle jar, where it was later rediscovered and identified thanks to the label the friar had put on the jar.

Kolbe's inspiring example of love and charity during his imprisonment and death by carbolic acid injection have led many to seek his intercession for those battling substance abuse.