

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
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

Evelyn Rivera 863-370-4000

Religious Formation – Every Sunday
Sept thru May

Preschool thru 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

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



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 13	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 14	8:00 am	
Sun Sep 14	10:30 am	
Mon Sep 15	8:30 am	
Tue Sep 16	8:30 am	
Thu Sep 18	8:30 am	
Fri Sep 19	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Sat Sep 20	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 21	8:00 am	
Sun Sep 21	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

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

Sep 14, 2017 Msgr. Patrick Caverly
 Sep 19, 2016 Very Rev. John M. McCormick
 Sep 23, 1986 Rev. Louis Bamundo
 Sep 27, 1995 Rev. Charles Schneider

*For God so loved the world,
 that he gave his only begotten Son,
 that whosoever believeth in him
 should not perish,
 but have everlasting life.
 John 3:16*

Women's Club meeting Sunday after Mass

LECTORS	EMHC
9/13-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Ryan Curtis	Pat Lowery Luke Almanzan
9/14-10:30 am	
Alina Gutierrez Confirmandi	Evelyn Rivera Maureen Leckie
9/20-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ann Slocum	Doug Van Orsdale Angelika Almanzan
9/21-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Rick Davila	Martha Laurent Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

8/31 Regular \$2299.00
 Maintenance 2312.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

8/31 Regular 405.00
 Maintenance 45.00

Diocesan Collection-September 14th Priest Retirement and Priest Care

Organ Dedication Concert

Be part of a very special evening as we celebrate the dedication of our new organ at Resurrection on **Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm.** This joyful concert will feature **Jonathan Branton, Director of Music & Liturgy at Resurrection**, together with **Louis Canter, OEF**, presenting an inspiring program that showcases the power and beauty of our new 4-manual Allen Organ. The evening will journey through all the major periods of organ music, highlighting the brilliance of German, English, French, and American composers. From timeless classics to vibrant showpieces, the program promises an unforgettable musical experience for our parish and community.

Admission is free, and all are welcome! Bring your family and friends to share in this celebration of music, prayer, and praise!



October 17 & 18

Call the office to drop donations off for the sale.

SAN GERARDO HOSPITAL

(continued from last week)

A Mission of Hope

The parish church inside of the hospital contains a relic of its 12th-century patron, as well as relics of Carlo Acutis and Louis and Zélie Martin.

Father Brena often uses the relics in his ministry at the hospital as he prays with grieving families and offers the sacraments to the sick.

"I hope this can help so many people to believe and hope in the Lord, who is close to those who suffer," he said.

Sporting a white lab coat over his clerical color, the chaplain said that he considers his work in the hospital as a "mission." He baptizes babies who die within hours of being born, spends time with cancer patients, and accompanies the elderly as they near the end of life, bringing the gifts of the Eucharist, confession, holy oils for the anointing of the sick, and intercessory prayers for healing.

Much of his ministry consists of listening to people's lives and their stories. He also ministers to hospital staff who need spiritual support while witnessing so much suffering, death and loss. The chaplain encourages the people who enter the hospital chapel to pray, as Carlo Acutis did, in front of the tabernacle and to meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

The saints connected with the hospital also assist in his ministry. Father Brena shared the story of a couple whose young son, Pietro Carlo, was hospitalized with a serious leg infection. They prayed daily for Acutis' intercession, keeping his image at the child's bedside, and asked to receive Communion daily in imitation of Carlo. Doctors had expected a three-month stay. He recovered in two, "thanks to Carlo," the chaplain added.

"No one wants to suffer," Father Brena said. "But welcoming and accepting suffering means, for a Catholic, to unite it with the cross of Jesus. ... That cross becomes lighter and less heavy when offered to the cross of Jesus."

The priest often reminds patients, "Death is not the end of everything, but the fulfillment of life." Carlo Acutis, he said, teaches us that the value

of life is not in years lived, but in how we live each day with grace.

For the soon-to-be St. Carlo Acutis, who is known for calling the Eucharist "my highway to heaven," San Gerardo Hospital was the final stop on the road to eternity. And the upcoming canonization of the 15-year-old boy (September 7th) who died of cancer carries a lasting message to the families whose loved ones are being treated at that hospital: that God can bring good out of even the worst tragedies.

MOTHER TERESA WAS HEROIC BUT MAYBE NOT FOR THE REASONS YOU THINK

There are many things about Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta that could be called heroic – her tireless service to the world's most rejected and her courageous witness to millions of what it is to live the Gospel, just to name a couple.

One of the first steps in declaring someone a saint is to determine their heroic virtue. Mother Teresa's entire life was lived heroically. Although the Albanian nun is always seen beaming and smiling brightly in photos, she experienced a profound internal desolation during which she felt silence from God, who seemed distant. In a letter to her spiritual director in 1957, Mother Teresa wrote that "I call, I cling, I want, and there is no one to answer. Where I try to raise my thoughts to heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives and hurt my very soul. I am told God lives in me – and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul," she said.

Mother Teresa had prayed fervently to share in Jesus' suffering, and many, including her spiritual director, believed her feelings of rejection and abandonment to be a mirror of Christ's own experience of loneliness and desolation during his Passion and death.

Because of the depth and duration of Mother Teresa's spiritual desert, many have hailed her as a great mystic when it comes to topic of spiritual darkness, a great mystic, but also very concrete, very down to earth. Very spiritual, but also observant and active in the lives of others.