

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

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 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica November 9, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat Nov 8	5:00 pm	All Souls in Purgatory
Sun Nov 9	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 9	10:30 am	+Leon LaClair
Mon Nov 10	8:30 am	
Tue Nov 11	8:30 am	+W.J. Coulter By Kathleen Morris
Thu Nov 13	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Nov 14	8:30 am	+Jim Sowle By Ann Sowle
Sat Nov 15	5:00 pm	+Sara Long By Kathleen Morris
Sun Nov 16	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 16	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, Fr. Gabriel Kamienski, Bill Kjerrumgaard, 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

Nov 3, 2013	Msgr. John Caulfield
Nov 9, 1994	Rev. Charles Anderson
Nov 15, 1995	Rev. James Fahey
Nov 17, 2004	Rev. Thomas Bergin
Nov 20, 2000	Rev. George Moreau
Nov 29, 2021	Rev. Hugo Londono
Nov 30, 1994	Rev. William Killion

SECOND COLLECTION

The Annual Collection for Catholic Charities of Central Florida will be held next weekend.

LECTORS	EMHC
11/8-5:00 pm	
Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
11/9-10:30 am	
Caroline Picart Confirmandi	Maria Davila Theresa Cherry
11/15-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Susan DeNeve
11/16-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Martha Laurent	Pattie Scott Maureen Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

10/26	Regular	\$1684.00
	Maintenance	230.00
	Memorials	150.00
	All Souls	367.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

10/26	Regular	410.00
	Maintenance	35.00

WHO GOES TO PURGATORY?

Those who die in the state of grace, yet without having being purified of all of their attachment to sin, go to Purgatory. Christ admonished us to "be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48), and so the purification of all imperfections, which even the good often still have at death, is necessary before entering the Father's Presence.

"I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but without effect for themselves; only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them do not touch

me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God . . . [I heard an interior voice] which said, My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it." (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 20)

Women's Club – after 10:30 am Mass

ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE

(continued from last week)

When Christ last century revealed the depth of his divine mercy to St. Faustina — private revelations that the Church finds credible and devotionally follows in the novena from Good Friday through Divine Mercy Sunday — Jesus himself spoke to her about hell and gave her several visions. While he stated that he “wants souls to come to know him first as King of mercy” (diary, 378), he said that we must take advantage of — not take for granted — that divine gift.

“If my death has not convinced you of my love,” he told her, “What will? Some use my graces to offend me. ... They do not wish to hear my call [to mercy], but proceed into the abyss of hell. ... God though I am, I cannot help such a soul because it scorns me; having a free will, it can spurn me or love me” (580).

After St. Faustina was shown a vision of hell and witnessed the particular sufferings of those there, she testified, “I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like. I, Sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence.” She added, “Most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a hell” (742).

No faithful follower of Jesus of course ever wants anyone to end up in hell. We want Jesus’ work of salvation to be efficacious, not refused. But refusing salvation is a radical capacity of human freedom. Just as it would have been senseless for Truth incarnate to speak about damnation so often and concretely if going there were just theoretical possibility — essentially just to “scare the hell out of” his people across the centuries — so it is imprudent and evangelically dangerous for admired Church leaders to second-guess Jesus’ words and speculate publicly about the improbability that no one in all of history would ever die in mortal sin and definitive self-exclusion.

Such problematic musings don’t call people to conversion but complacency.

When Jesus was asked about how many are saved — and therefore how many go to hell — he didn’t respond with a number, or a percentage, or with a full or null set. Rather, he said, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate” (Lk 13:24).

As the Church celebrates during Easter the mysteries of our redemption, we would all do well faithfully to echo Jesus’ wisdom and, with his grace, follow urgently and perseveringly that path.

Fr Roger Landry

PREPARING TO BE CALLED

“Am I dying?” I wanted to ask, but I couldn’t move, couldn’t speak. And then hearing also stopped, and there was a silence more intense than any silence I can remember. The body might have been helpless, but the soul was wide awake and in full possession of its faculties. Undisturbed by the outside, memory was keener than ever before. And in this anguish of a last agony the soul passed once more through its past life, seeing everything so much more clearly. Although nothing is to be seen, the soul senses very sharply the presence of an evil power which wants to influence it to give up: the sins are too many and too horrible to allow any hope. But it also senses another spiritual power present. It may be the guardian angel soothing the soul, reminding it, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: reminding the soul of the bottomless mercy and love of the heavenly Father whom it is to meet very soon now.

And then? Well, I did not die. But for the rest of my life I shall be grateful for those most precious moments. Afterwards I found out that this seems to be a general occurrence and not just my private experience. They say the senses die slowly, one by one. Therefore, we should take great care what is said and done in the presence of the dying. While they are fighting their last decisive battle, it would mean such a help if they could hear us talk to them about the mercy of God, about having trust and confidence. One day we shall have to take that same step too. This might be the best preparation. And when everything is over and one of our beloved has died, we should remember the words of the Revelation of John: I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord henceforth.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them” (Rv 14:13).

MARIA AUGUSTA VON TRAPP

