

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 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

Email: [office@stthomasbartow.org](mailto:office@stthomasbartow.org)  
Phone 863-533-8578  
Fax 863- 533-5090  
[www.stthomasbartow.org](http://www.stthomasbartow.org)

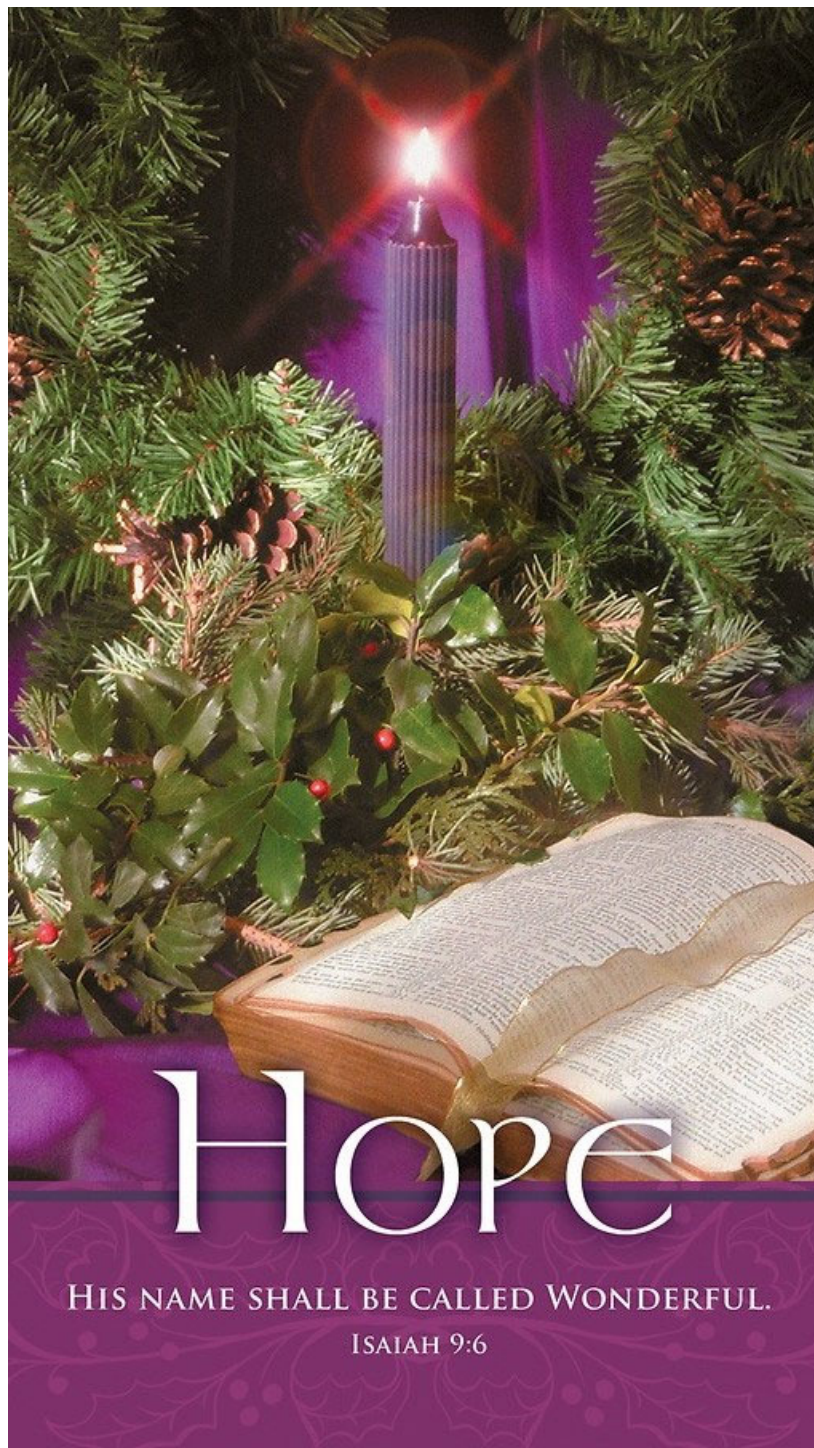
**NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!**  
**Registration forms in church or office**

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

## *Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church*

*2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830*

*Diocese of Orlando*



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025



## Mass Intentions

|            |          |                                             |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| Sat Nov 29 | 5:00 pm  | +Sara Long<br>By Dcn Mark & Carolyn King    |
| Sun Nov 30 | 8:00 am  | For All Parishioners                        |
| Sun Nov 30 | 10:30 am | +Leon LaClair<br>By Bob & Helen Hillis      |
| Mon Dec 1  | 8:30 am  | +Leon LaClair<br>By Dcn Mark & Carolyn King |
| Tue Dec 2  | 8:30 am  | +Leon LaClair<br>By Family                  |
| Thu Dec 4  | 8:30 am  | All Souls in Purgatory                      |
| Fri Dec 5  | 8:30 am  | +Jim Sowle<br>By Ann Sowle                  |
| Sat Dec 6  | 8:30 am  | Fr. Gabriel Kamienski                       |
| Sat Dec 6  | 5:00 pm  | +Carol Case<br>By Marge & Rick Ward         |
| Sun Dec 7  | 8:00 am  | For All Parishioners                        |
| Sun Dec 7  | 10:30 am | +Leon LaClair<br>By Bob & Helen Hillis      |

## 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 deceased diocesan priests*

Dec 2, 2015 Msgr. Vidal Arboleda  
Dec 5, 2008 Rev. Stephen Phillips  
Dec 13, 1971 Msgr. William Mullally  
Dec 21, 1997 Rev. William O'Farrell  
Dec 22, 1981 Rev. Vincent Smith  
Dec 22, 2010 Rev. Gerard Granahan

**Penance Service – December 12 at 7:00 pm**

| LECTORS                            | EMHC                             |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11/29-5:00 pm                      |                                  |
| Mike DeNeve<br>Ryan Curtis         | Susan DeNeve<br>Doug Van Orsdale |
| 11/30-10:30 am                     |                                  |
| Oziemar Woodard<br>Barbara Woodard | Maria Davila<br>Martha Laurent   |
| 12/6-5:00 pm                       |                                  |
| Ann Spencer<br>Barbara Van Orsdale | Doug Van Orsdale<br>Susan DeNeve |
| 12/7-10:30 am                      |                                  |
| Rick Davila<br>Caroline Picart     | Maria Davila<br>Martha Laurent   |

## Saint Thomas Collection

|       |             |           |
|-------|-------------|-----------|
| 11/16 | Regular     | \$2056.00 |
|       | Maintenance | 20.00     |
|       | Diocesan    | 1358.00   |

## Saint Elizabeth Collection

|       |          |        |
|-------|----------|--------|
| 11/16 | Regular  | 405.00 |
|       | Diocesan | 110.00 |

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers for the Church, please include your donations in the second collection.

## COME TO PRAY

**December 4** First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

**December 5** First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**December 6** First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.

## ANGEL TREE

\$25 gift cards will be collected again this year to help needy children for Christmas. Please call the office to request assistance or if you know a family who might need assistance.



**Sunday Nights at 6:00 pm in the parish hall.**



*Today we begin a new liturgical year in the Church. And I think it is the best time to present to you liturgical requirements for those attending Mass.*

### HOW TO PRAY THE OUR FATHER

A discussion that is common in Catholic parishes between the more orthodox members of the parish and the more “progressive” members is whether or not the faithful should use the Orans Posture during the *Our Father*. When such a question comes up, the obvious solution is to go to the rubrics. *Instruction On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests*, put out by the Vatican on August 15, 1997, we read,

[...] **“Neither may deacons or non-ordained members of the faithful use gestures or actions which are proper to the same priest celebrant.** It is a grave abuse for any member of the non-ordained faithful to “quasi preside” at the Mass while leaving only that minimal participation to the priest which is necessary to secure validity” ([ICP Practical Provisions 6 §2](#)).

More importantly to this topic, this also means the faithful may not use the same gestures that are reserved for the priest celebrant.

The Sacramentary (the book of prayers for Mass used by the priest) states that the celebrant is to pray the *Our Father* with hands extended. Looking back at *ICP*, the faithful are **NOT** to use gestures or actions proper to the priest celebrant. Using this argument, one would think that the rubrics could be used to appeal to the faithful. Unfortunately, many of the faithful view the rubrics as another set of rules and those of us who wish to enforce the rubrics are no better than the Pharisees.

In that regard, let us look instead to another reason why the Orans Posture (and subsequently, holding hands) is not an appropriate gesture for the faithful during the *Our Father*. The *Our Father* takes place during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This time of prayer and offering is directed to God (as is the entire Mass, but more specifically during the Liturgy of the Eucharist). As it is directed toward God, the extending and/or holding of hands creates a horizontal emphasis on the prayer, as opposed to the vertical emphasis that it

demands. Many people who prefer hand holding or the Orans Posture argue that the *Our Father* is a community prayer, and as such holding and/or extending hands is a visible sign of that community. However, the *Our Father* is a community prayer, not because we hold or extend our hands, but because we pray it together as the Body of Christ.

On September 3, 1958 the Sacred Congregation for Rites issued a document titled *De musica sacra et sacra liturgia* (*Instruction on Sacred Music and Sacred Liturgy*). This document stated, “Since the *Pater Noster* is a fitting, and ancient prayer of preparation for Communion, the entire congregation may recite this prayer in unison with the priest in low Masses; the Amen at the end is to be said by all” ([DM Prayers and Hymns § 32](#)).

It was at this time that the faithful were given permission to pray the *Our Father* with the priest. However, the faithful maintained the same posture as before - standing, with their hands folded in prayer. Prior to this *Instruction*, the priest prayed the *Our Father* on behalf of the faithful. The Orans Posture is representative of praying on behalf of others. The next time you are at Mass, watch the priest’s gestures closely. Anytime he offers prayers on behalf of the faithful, he uses the Orans Posture. Anytime he is offering other prayers, his hands are folded together. Having a better understanding of what particular gestures mean will lead to a better understanding of the Liturgy.

American journalist Hunter S. Thompson was dead on when he said, “Anything worth doing, is worth doing right.” We are talking about the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass here. The Eucharist, “the source and summit of the Christian Life” ([LG 11](#)) is consecrated here. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords makes Himself present during the Mass. It is of the utmost importance that we treat the Mass with the respect it deserves. This is not the time nor the place to get creative and inject one’s own style and preferences.

***The first candle of Advent is called the "Hope" or "Prophet's Candle," symbolizing the anticipation of the coming Messiah and the hope that He brings to the world.***