



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 7, 2025

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
2. **Las Posadas** – Nightly December 15 – 23 at 6:00 pm. Las Posadas is a 9-day novena that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem.
3. **Advent Penance Service** – December 12 - 7:00 pm
4. **The obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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>
8. 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 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.
9. 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.

Catholic Trivia

Who were the three wise women of Scripture? Mary believed. Elizabeth recognized. Anna waited. Three women, three kinds of wisdom—all rooted in the same source: a heart attuned to God's will. When we think of wisdom in the Bible, our minds often go straight to Solomon or the Magi. But before the star led wise men to Bethlehem, three wise women had already prepared the way for Christ: Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna.

Mary: The Woman Who Believed

When the Angel Gabriel appeared to her, Mary didn't demand proof or delay with doubt. She simply said: "Let it be done to me according to your word." Her wisdom was born of faith. She listened, trusted, and obeyed—showing that true wisdom begins not with knowing everything, but with surrendering everything to God. This scene is one of the beautiful mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Elizabeth: The Woman Who Recognized

When Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth instantly recognized the presence of the Messiah. Filled with the Holy Spirit, she cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Elizabeth's wisdom was the fruit of humility. In her old age, she rejoiced not in herself, but in what God was doing through others. She teaches us that spiritual insight comes when our hearts are free of envy and full of gratitude. This moment between Mary and Elizabeth is another one of the beautiful mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Anna: The Woman Who Waited

Eighty-four years old and long widowed, Anna never left the Temple. She fasted, prayed, and waited. When she finally saw the Child Jesus, she knew Him instantly—and began proclaiming His coming to all who would listen. What amazing confidence in the Lord she revealed, and what an example of steadfast love for God. Anna's wisdom was perseverance in faith. She shows that those who wait on the Lord will not be disappointed.

The Wisdom of the Heart

Mary believed.

Elizabeth recognized.

Anna waited.

Three women, three kinds of wisdom—all rooted in the same source: a heart attuned to God's will.

Their stories remind us that divine wisdom isn't about intelligence or power, but about listening, trusting, and responding to God's call in the everyday moments of life.