



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 11, 2026

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 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. There is also a button to view the previous week's bulletin if you missed it. 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 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.

Catholic Trivia

Who is the patron saint of doorkeepers?

Born **Alfred Bessette** in 1845 in Quebec, Canada, André spent much of his life struggling with poor health and self-doubt. When he entered religious life with the Congregation of Holy Cross, he was assigned what many at the time considered the *least* important job: **doorkeeper**. He stood at the entrance of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, greeting visitors, opening doors, and offering a warm word or simple prayer to everyone who passed by.



A Door Was Never “Just a Door”

One day, a young man arrived at the oratory, deeply discouraged and feeling unloved. He sighed to André, “I have nowhere to turn.” Without hesitation, André replied, “Let us pray together.” This moment became the beginning of a remarkable pattern: people came to André’s door not for jokes or idle chat — they came for peace, for hope, and for healing.

Word spread that Brother André’s prayers were extraordinary, especially when he invoked the name of St. Joseph. People began asking him to pray for the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, and the broken. Brother André would lead them in prayer, make the sign of the cross with oil from his lamp, and many reported miraculous relief, consolation, and sometimes even cured illnesses. One notable story tells of a man paralyzed from childhood who walked again after Brother André’s prayer. Another recounts a woman, long thought barren, conceiving after asking André to pray with her. Soon, lines formed outside the oratory door — not for food, not for shelter, but for prayer and hope.

Why He’s the Patron of Doorkeepers

In 2010, the Church declared Brother André a saint, and he was named patron saint of doorkeepers — not because his job was glamorous, but because he sanctified that role. He turned an entrance into a place of encounter with Christ, offering hospitality, prayer, and healing to all who came.

Saint André teaches us something profound: That a doorkeeper’s true task is not to guard a threshold, but to welcome souls. Every door we open for another, every welcome we offer, can be a doorway to grace. St. André was known for his humility. When people called him a miracle worker, he would smile and say, “It is not I who heal, but God through our prayers.” He never sought the spotlight, yet countless pilgrims flocked to his simple oratory, seeking peace at the threshold.

His life reminds us that our smallest actions — a warm greeting, a moment of prayer, a hand extended in kindness — are meaningful. God meets us not only in grand moments, but in the quiet places where love opens doors.