

Father Eugene Grytner, SDS

Office hours 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

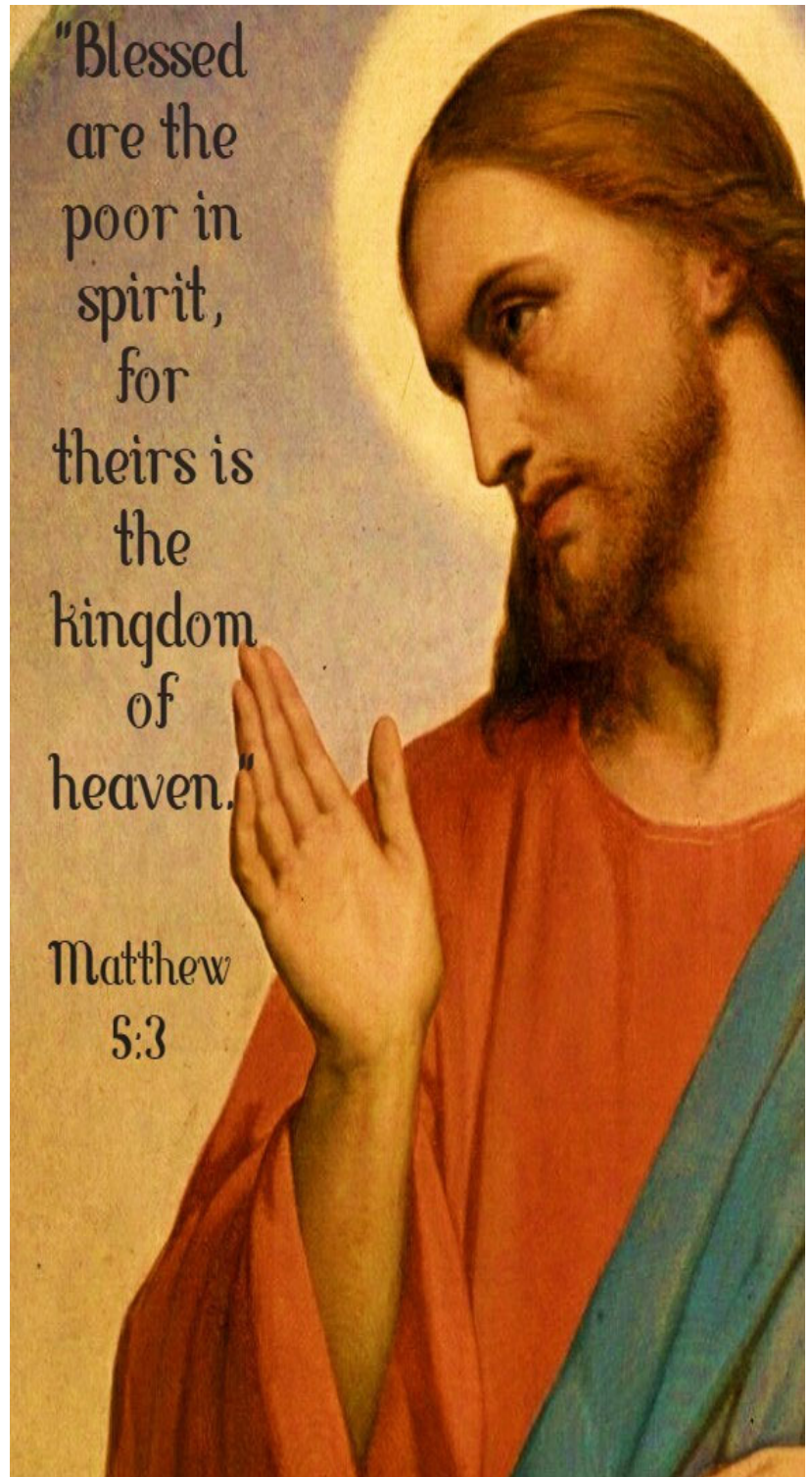
NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orlando



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Jan 31	5:00 pm	
Sun Feb 1	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Feb 1	10:30 am	+Leon LaClair By Theresa & George Cherry
Mon Feb 2	8:30 am	
Tue Feb 3	8:30 am	
Thu Feb 5	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Feb 6	8:30 am	+Jim Sowle By Ann Sowle
Sat Feb 7	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Feb 7	5:00 pm	+ Juan Vasquez, +Kainen Genovisi, +Elisa Roman By Yolanda Vasquez
Sun Feb 8	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Feb 8	10:30 am	

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:

Feb. 1, 2006	Rev. Brendan C. Donnelly
Feb. 2, 2012	Rev. Anthony Palmese
Feb. 4, 1999	Rev. Michael Hanrahan
Feb. 9, 1981	Rev. Edward Condren
Feb. 11, 2016	Msgr. Edward Thompson
Feb. 15, 1999	Rev. Antonio Pons
Feb. 20, 1969	Rev. Patrick Malone
Feb. 21, 2013	Most Rev. Norbert Dorsey
Feb. 25, 2012	Rev. Larry Lossing
Feb. 26, 1989	Rev. Carlos Aizpun

LECTORS	EMHC
1/31-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Pat Lowery	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
2/1-10:30 am	
Ryan Curtis Evelyn Rivera	Pattie Scott George Cherry
2/7-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ann Spencer	Doug Van Orsdale Susan DeNeve
2/8-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	Martha Laurent Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

1/18	Regular	\$1864.00
	Maintenance	295.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

1/18	Regular	800.00
	Maintenance	32.00



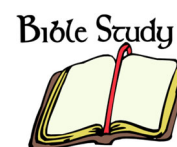
Our 68th annual BBQ will take place on Sunday, **February 1st**. Cost will be \$12 for a half chicken dinner with beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and dessert.

COME TO PRAY

February 5 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.

February 6 First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

February 7 First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.



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

THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN HUMAN WORK: A SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

(continued from last week)

Just as the child exists in the image and likeness of his parents, so we exist in the image and likeness of God the Father. It is precisely as the Father's children, moreover, that we are called to learn and share in his trade: the trade of creation. Of course, none of us are able to create in the strict philosophical sense of bringing things into being out of nothing. Only God can do that. Nevertheless, we do have the ability (and responsibility) to create in a subsidiary sense by bringing new life, beauty and order into the world using the gifts and materials the Father has given us. For many of us, this means extending his image and likeness into children of our own. For all of us, it means using our talents and gifts to incarnate his creative spirit in the world. We should therefore realize that the primordial command to be fruitful and multiply encompasses more than just our capacity for procreation, precious though that is. Understood more broadly, the command also extends to our capacity for art and craft. Pope St. John Paul II touched on these themes in his 1999 [Letter to Artists](#) (No. 1). He wrote:

Through his "artistic creativity" man appears more than ever "in the image of God," and he accomplishes this task above all in shaping the wondrous "material" of his own humanity and then exercising creative dominion over the universe which surrounds him. With loving regard, the divine Artist passes on to the human artist a spark of his own surpassing wisdom, calling him to share in his creative power.

The pope's words remind us that when Scripture calls God "the author of beauty" (Wis 13:3), the authorship it describes is one in which the Father invites us to share. Needless to say, the work of God always remains infinitely greater than — and indeed the very source of — our own meager contributions. Nevertheless, the Lord has so ordained it that we should become not merely translators or transcribers but true co-authors with him in the composition of beautiful things. When Michelangelo steps back to survey his masterpiece, he does so as one who has received a divine spark. It therefore comes as no surprise that art possesses a

unique ability to pierce the soul and soften the hearts of men.

In his 1947 essay "On Fairy-Stories," the British novelist J.R.R. Tolkien meditated at length on the human capacity to create a "secondary world," that is, a fantasy realm which nonetheless bears the signature of the divine. Describing this process as one of "sub-creation," Tolkien explained: "We make in our measure and in our derivative mode, because we are made: and not only made, but made in the image and likeness of a Maker." These words could just as easily have been voiced by G.K. Chesterton, who, writing some 20 years earlier in his classic work "The Everlasting Man," commented on that capacity for art and craft which renders human beings so distinct: "This creature was truly different from all other creatures; because he was a creator as well as a creature." For Chesterton as for Tolkien, there is great significance in the fact that in the natural world it is only human beings who can tell stories and produce art and craft. Of all the creatures on earth, it is man and man alone who possesses the power of sub-creation. When the electrician completes a circuit and flips the switch after many hours of labor, the words of the Creator become, in some sense, his own: "Let there be light."

The Mystery of Co-Redemption

So far we have considered how our being made in the Father's image and likeness allows us to participate in his creative work through the gifts of procreation and sub-creation. But if our Catholic faith tells us anything, it is that we are called to be more than just procreators or sub-creators, for we are also called to be co-redeemers. In a sublime way, it is not just material creation but spiritual re-creation that the Lord invites us to share in. "I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake," writes St. Paul, "and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church" (Col 1:24). It is a verse that lies at the bleeding heart of the mystery of co-redemption, and it raises the question of what could possibly be lacking in Christ's afflictions.

(To be continued next week)