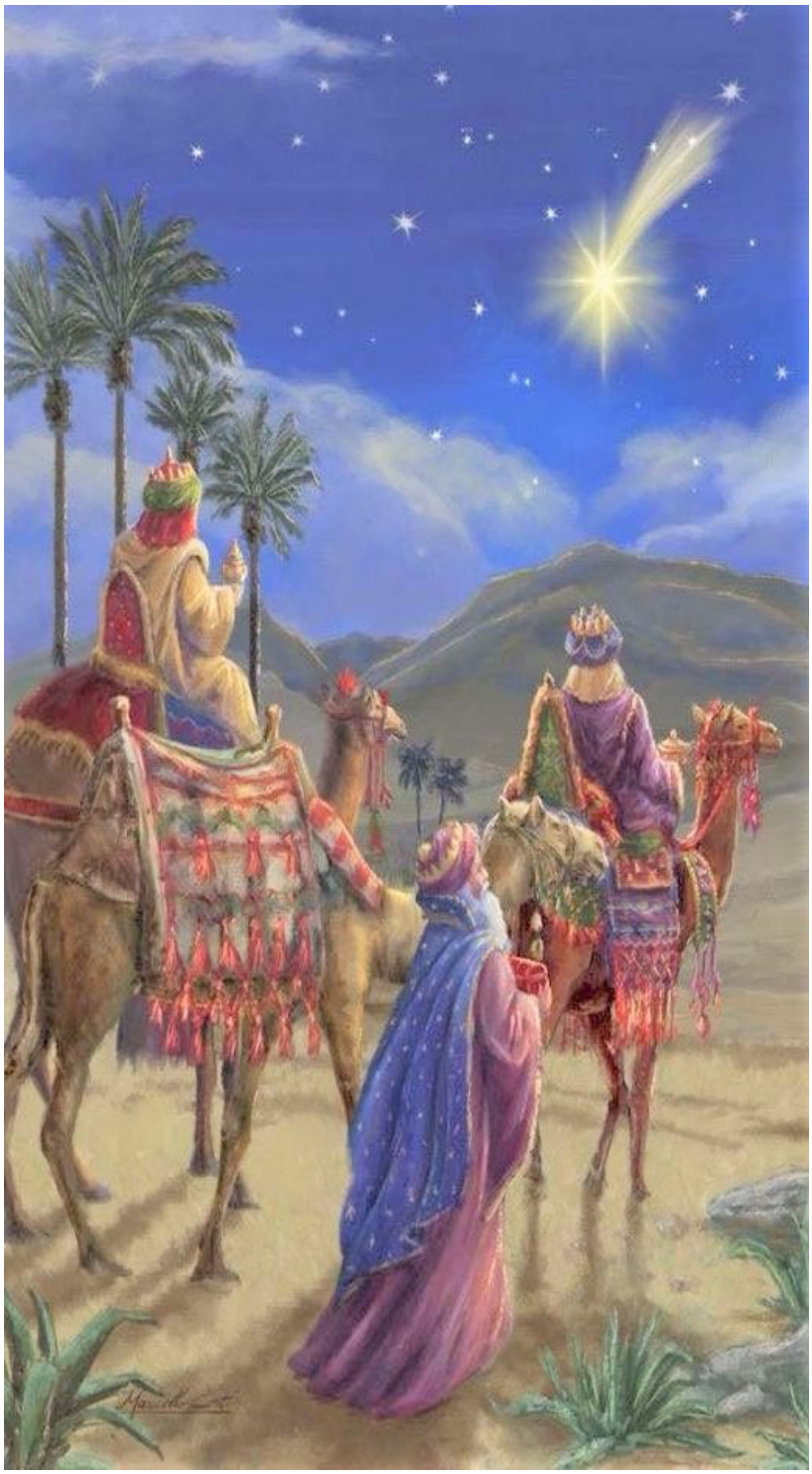
Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830
Diocese of Orlando



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

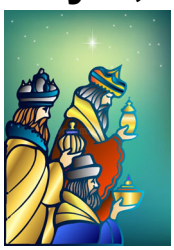
Preschool thru 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

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

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Jan 3	5:00 pm	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sun Jan 4	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Jan 4	10:30 am	+Sara Long By Kay LaClair
Mon Jan 5	8:30 am	
Tue Jan 6	8:30 am	
Thu Jan 8	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jan 9	8:30 am	
Sat Jan 10	5:00 pm	+Leon LaClair By Dcn Mark & Carolyn King
Sun Jan 11	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Jan 11	10:30 am	Virginia Wiggins 101st Birthday

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:

Jan 1, 2021 Rev. Eamon Tobin
Jan 4, 2021 Rev. Luiz Bastos
Jan 8, 1975 Rev. Hugh Flynn
Jan 13, 1982 Rev. William Holmes
Jan 13, 2015 Rev. Mark Wegg
Jan 16, 1988 Rev. Michael Flynn
Jan 23, 1972 Rev. Michael Reynolds
Jan 27, 2007 Rev. James Francis Edwards
Jan 28, 2024 Rev. Robert Hoeffner
Jan 30, 2016 Rev. Peter Quinn

LECTORS	EMHC
1/3-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Barbara Van Orsdale	Maureen Leckie Doug Van Orsdale
1/4-10:30 am	
Rick Davila Caroline Picart	Martha Laurent Maria Davila
1/10-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Ann Slocum	Pat Lowery Ruth Palmer
1/11-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	George Cherry Theresa Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

12/21	Regular	$1844.00
	Maintenance	328.00
	Christmas Flowers	15.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

12/21	Regular	384.00
	Maintenance	40.00

SECOND COLLECTION

The Annual Collection for Seminarians will be held this weekend.

ADORATION CHAPEL

On this joyful time of the year I would like to share with you dear parishioners the good news for which we were waiting such a long time.

The blueprint for our adoration chapel and estimate are completed. The estimated cost of the building is $161,000. This does not include the interior. The above mentioned plans were sent to the Diocesan Building Department for final approval.

This project could be only completed with your donations for which I kindly ask. Envelopes for donations toward this project are in the Narthex with a copy of the blue print for you to look at.

God never asks us to do what He does not support us in doing. That does not mean it may not be hard; it does mean it's "possible."

The Women's Club will meet immediately after Mass on Sunday, January 11th.

CHRISTMAS MANNA AND ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

(continued from last week)

In his *The Catholic Controversy*, which includes the pamphlets he sent throughout the region of the Chablais to bring back (successfully) to the Catholic faith those who had become Calvinists, he wrote that the Blessed Sacrament is "the abridgment of our faith," a "holy and perfect memorial of the Gospel" and an "admirable summing up of our faith."

He built on the point of the Eucharist as the synthesis of Christian faith and life in his *Introduction to the Devout Life* when he declared that the Eucharist is "sum of all spiritual exercises … the very center of our Christian religion, the heart of all devotion, the soul of piety, the ineffable mystery that embraces the whole depth of divine love, by which God, giving himself really to us, conveys all his graces and favors to men with royal magnificence." The Eucharist, in other words, summarizes the incarnation, birth, hidden life, public ministry, passion, death, resurrection, ascension and glorification of Christ, as well as the identity, center, life and mission of the Church as Christ's Body and Bride.

In his Treatise on the Love of God, his deepest work, he unsurprisingly calls the Eucharist "the perpetual feast of divine grace" in which we receive "our Savior's blood in his flesh and his flesh in his blood … given into our bodily mouth." This points to what the Church implores in the Opening Prayer of the Mass on Christmas Day and each day at the altar, as the priest mixes a drop of water into the wine in the chalice: "O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant … that we may share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." This "wondrous exchange," this transforming union with God our Savior, is the meaning of Christmas and the celebration of the Mass. Because of the reality of Christ in the Eucharist and the work Christ seeks to accomplish in us by means of his continuous incarnate self-giving at the altar, St. Francis urges us, in *Introduction to the Devout Life*, to "strive to your utmost to be present every day at this Holy Celebration."

Just as much as the Israelites each day ate the manna God rained down from heaven, St. Francis is urging us to do the same with the True Manna, which is the means by which we will enter far more deeply into the ongoing reality of Christmas, God-with-us, who is still very much with us. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, and to commemorate the great St. Francis de Sales on the 400th anniversary of the fulfillment of the advent of his life, St. Francis beckons us to Christ in the Eucharist and urges us, like we sing on Christmas, "Come, let us adore him" — and adoringly receive him.

Fr. Roger Landry

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

When you reflect on this reality, it truly is incredible: Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament, in prayer and devotion, is exactly the same as spending time before the living God.

Since the Last Supper, Catholics have believed that the bread and wine, once consecrated during Mass, are no longer merely baked wheat and fermented grape juice, but the actual living presence of Jesus.

Adoration occurs whenever someone kneels in front of a tabernacle that contains the Blessed Sacrament, genuflects toward a tabernacle, bows before receiving the Blessed Sacrament at Mass, or, in a more focused way, when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration.

God wants to give us two great and related gifts this Christmas. The first is himself, wrapped not in ribbon and paper, not even in swaddling clothes, but with our very flesh and blood and circumstances. The second is the gift of the invitation, indeed the commission, to continue his mission, for we are just as much a part of it as the figures in the Infancy Narratives.