

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 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*



# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8, 2026



## Mass Intentions

|            |          |                                                                      |
|------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat Feb 7  | 5:00 pm  | + Juan Vasquez, +Kainen Genovisi, +Elisa Roman<br>By Yolanda Vasquez |
| Sun Feb 8  | 8:00 am  | For All Parishioners                                                 |
| Sun Feb 8  | 10:30 am | +Jimmy Hook & +Kimberly Worth<br>By Maria & Rick Davila              |
| Mon Feb 9  | 8:30 am  | Leader of Faith Formation<br>By Ruth Palmer                          |
| Tue Feb 10 | 8:30 am  | All Souls in Purgatory                                               |
| Thu Feb 12 | 8:30 am  | +Don Slocum<br>By Ann Slocum                                         |
| Fri Feb 13 | 8:30 am  | +Jack Kirkwood<br>By Ann Sowle                                       |
| Sat Feb 14 | 5:00 pm  |                                                                      |
| Sun Feb 15 | 8:00 am  | For All Parishioners                                                 |
| Sun Feb 15 | 10:30 am |                                                                      |

## Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, Melvin Casey, Debbie Coffman, Alan English, Rachel Gohman, 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       |

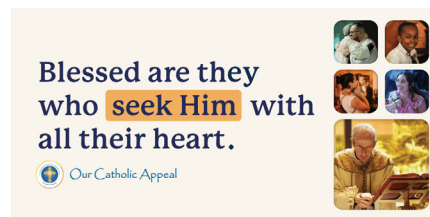
| LECTORS                            | EMHC                             |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2/7-5:00 pm                        |                                  |
| Barbara Van Orsdale<br>Ann Spencer | Doug Van Orsdale<br>Susan DeNeve |
| 2/8-10:30 am                       |                                  |
| Confirmandi<br>Carrie Brown        | Martha Laurent<br>Maria Davila   |
| 2/14-5:00 pm                       |                                  |
| Ruth Palmer<br>Ann Slocum          | Ann Slocum<br>Ruth Palmer        |
| 2/15-10:30 am                      |                                  |
| Oziemar Woodard<br>Barbara Woodard | Theresa Cherry<br>Evelyn Rivera  |

## Saint Thomas Collection

|      |             |           |
|------|-------------|-----------|
| 1/25 | Regular     | \$2581.00 |
|      | Maintenance | 296.93    |

## Saint Elizabeth Collection

|      |             |        |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 1/25 | Regular     | 352.00 |
|      | Maintenance | 15.00  |



## **OUR CATHOLIC APPEAL Weekend is February 14-15**

## **THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN HUMAN WORK: A SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION**

(continued from last week)

The answer presents itself to us every time we look in the mirror. We are the ones, with our frail and wayward wills and our visceral aversion to suffering, who are so routinely lacking. For in truth Jesus does not force his redemption on anyone; it is always our "yes," our *fiat*, that he lovingly awaits before his redemption can be completed in us. It is only when we come to terms with this spiritual drama that we can begin to make sense of Christ's cryptic words in the Gospel of John (14:12-14):

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified

in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

At first glance, the suggestion that we will do greater works than the [Son of God](#) seems baffling, if not downright blasphemous. Yet we know that Jesus can commit no blasphemy, and he means what he says.

In his commentary on the passage, [St. Thomas Aquinas](#) offers the following explanation:

(Jesus) is saying in effect: The works that I do are so great that they are a sufficient sign of my divinity; but if these are not enough for you, then look at the works I will do through others. For the strongest sign of great power is when a person does extraordinary things not only by himself but also through others.

Following St. Augustine, Aquinas maintains that Christ's redemption of sinners is a work which is greater than his earthly miracles, and greater even than the creation of the world. For whereas creation has a purely physical effect, the redemption of a soul has a spiritual effect; and whereas the heavens and the earth will pass away, the soul lasts forever. Thus when Christ works his redemption in us, he is doing something more marvelous than the creation of light; through the grace of his sacraments, he makes us "participants of the divine nature" (2 Pt 1:4). And when this happens, "greater works than these" await us. Not, to be sure, on account of anything we can achieve on our own power, but because the Redeemer is now working through us: "and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

### **The work of our hands**

Our Lord's decision to institute the holy Eucharist using the work of human hands is neither an accident nor an aberration; it is part and parcel of the logic of his creation. It is the same logic whereby man, made in the Father's image and likeness, is called to become co-creator with God. And our appreciation for this logic ought to influence every aspect of our lives. When we feel discouraged, we should remember that we have some vital role to play in restoring the beauty and integrity of creation. When we feel anxious over some question of discernment, we should remember that God gave us free will not to confuse or ensnare us,

but to allow us to share in his divine plan. When we feel apathetic or indifferent, we should remember that we have been given a real responsibility for the salvation of souls, most especially our own.

Last but not least, when we feel overwhelmed or disheartened in the face of whatever work we are called to do in this life, we should remember that the work of our hands is always worthwhile, if only we unite it to the work of our heavenly Father. It is this signal Christian truth which Pope St. John Paul II described in his 1981 encyclical *Laborem Exercens* as a "gospel of work," for it contains the good news that man "shares by his work in the activity of the Creator" (No. 25). By virtue of this fact, all of our work bears an immeasurable dignity, no matter how menial or tedious or frustrating it appears (*Laborem Exercens*, No. 27):

Sweat and toil, which work necessarily involves the present condition of the human race, present the Christian and everyone who is called to follow Christ with the possibility of sharing lovingly in the work that Christ came to do. ... By enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity. He shows himself a true disciple of Christ by carrying the cross in his turn every day in the activity that he is called upon to perform. When approached in a spirit of faith, our daily toil becomes nothing less than an active participation in Christ's saving work. "For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor 3:9). We are laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, and ours is the joy of knowing that the same God who turns bread and wine into his body and blood can transform all our efforts into instruments of his divine grace.

*Clement Harrold*

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the Women's Club and to all the volunteers that helped make the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Thomas Aquinas' BBQ a success.

Thanks also to everyone who donated to the Options for Women Baby Bottle Campaign last year - \$474.01 was collected.