

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
evcoultter@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



2nd Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026



TRANSFIGURATION

Mass Intentions

Sat Feb 28	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 1	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 1	10:30 am	
Mon Mar 2	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 3	8:30 am	
Thu Mar 5	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 6	8:30 am	+Jim Sowle By Ann Sowle
Sat Mar 7	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Mar 7	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 8	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 8	10:30 am	+Mercedes Davila By Maria & Rick Davila

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

Mar. 18, 1991 Rev. Paul Kajdan
Mar. 20, 1982 Rev. Thomas Gross
Mar. 22, 1972 Msgr. Martin Brendan Power
Mar. 22, 2023 Rev. John J. Ryan
Mar. 25, 1978 Rev. Sean Patrick Molloy



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

LECTORS	EMHC
2/28-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Victor Aguirre	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
3/1-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Rick Davila	Pattie Scott George Cherry
3/7-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ann Spencer	Pat Lowery Doug Van Orsdale
3/8-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	Martha Laurent Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

2/15	Regular	\$2128.00
	Maintenance	342.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

2/15	Regular	217.00
	Maintenance	17.00

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Easter Flowers for the Church, please place your envelopes in the second collection. Envelopes can be found in the pews.

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2026

Clean and gently used light-colored, long-sleeve, button down shirts (men and women S, M & L sizes) are needed, and 100 percent cotton is preferred but not necessary. There is a drop box in the narthex.

COME TO PRAY

March 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.

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

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

***Fine Art Exhibition and Original,
Limited Edition Print Sale Fundraiser
In the narthex on March 1***

HOW TO LIVE A 'LITTLE' LENT

Every year when [Lent rolls around](#), we find ourselves facing the same question: "What should I do to live this season well?"

In Stephen Covey's famed book "[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#)," he urges: "Begin with the end in mind." A seminarian friend of mine introduced me to that wisdom as it applies to the spiritual life, and I have found it particularly relevant to the shifting of the liturgical seasons.

What if, when Ash Wednesday rolls around, instead of asking, "What should I do for Lent?" I pondered, "Lord, how do you want me to be different when Easter arrives?" The concept is this: Consider the end (Easter) first, so that when you begin the journey there (Ash Wednesday), you orient yourself toward a goal rather than simply checking a sacrifice off of a list. I think the answer to the latter question, when taken to prayer and opened to the Lord's will, is the one that will help us to live the most intentional and fulfilling Lent.

Change a little habit

Let's say you follow my first suggestion by considering what hopes Jesus has for you come Easter time. And you feel called to be a more patient person when Easter comes, or you discern a need to know the Lord's rest more deeply, or you are yearning to hear his voice more clearly. Then choose small Lenten practices that will help you in that specific area of your life. After all, Lent is about preparing our hearts for Easter by conforming them more closely to Christ. So find one area of your life that needs to be conformed more closely to Christ and focus there.

I am advocating for simplicity. St. Faustina explains the impact of beginning with a specific yes to God: "Now I understand what it means to be faithful to a particular grace. That one grace draws down a whole series of others" ("Diary," No. 263). It is in changing the littlest habits that we can allow God to spark the greatest changes in our lives. In fact, we all too easily fall into the fallacy that we must do something huge, and we fail to realize that we are often better off doing something small and letting God use that

littleness for something much bigger than ourselves.

Suppose you leave behind the grandiose plans. Suppose you choose a goal and introduce one simple practice, cultivate one single habit to help you get there. Some of us can successfully commit to a half hour of spiritual reading every day (and maybe that is exactly what the Lord is calling you to this season). But if you are one of those gals who starts the season with soaring expectations and ends up feeling like a disgruntled failure because you chose something you won't attain, what about starting more simply?

For example, choose one spiritual book to read, divide the roughly 180 pages by 40 days, and then read just four or five pages each day. Suppose you want to dive more deeply into Scripture this Lent. Commit to reading one chapter from the Bible each day. Suppose you want to begin a practice of keeping a prayer journal but never seem to be able to find the time. Commit to opening the journal and writing one thing each day, even a mere phrase — a way you saw God today or heard him speak to you or something you are grateful for. Suppose you identify a need for greater rest but find it impossible to stick to a bedtime. Make a start by choosing a time to turn off all screens. Once you begin with one simple discipline, some of the tension washes away and even more becomes possible.

(To be continued next week)

"Receiving the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ while conscious of having committed a grave sin amounts to self-condemnation."

Archbp. Edward Charles of Freetown.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Saturday, March 21st

\$10 per person

If you would like to participate in this event and bring a dish that represents your culture or a country meaningful to you, please contact Maria Davila at 863-370-3441 by 3/14/26.