

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!

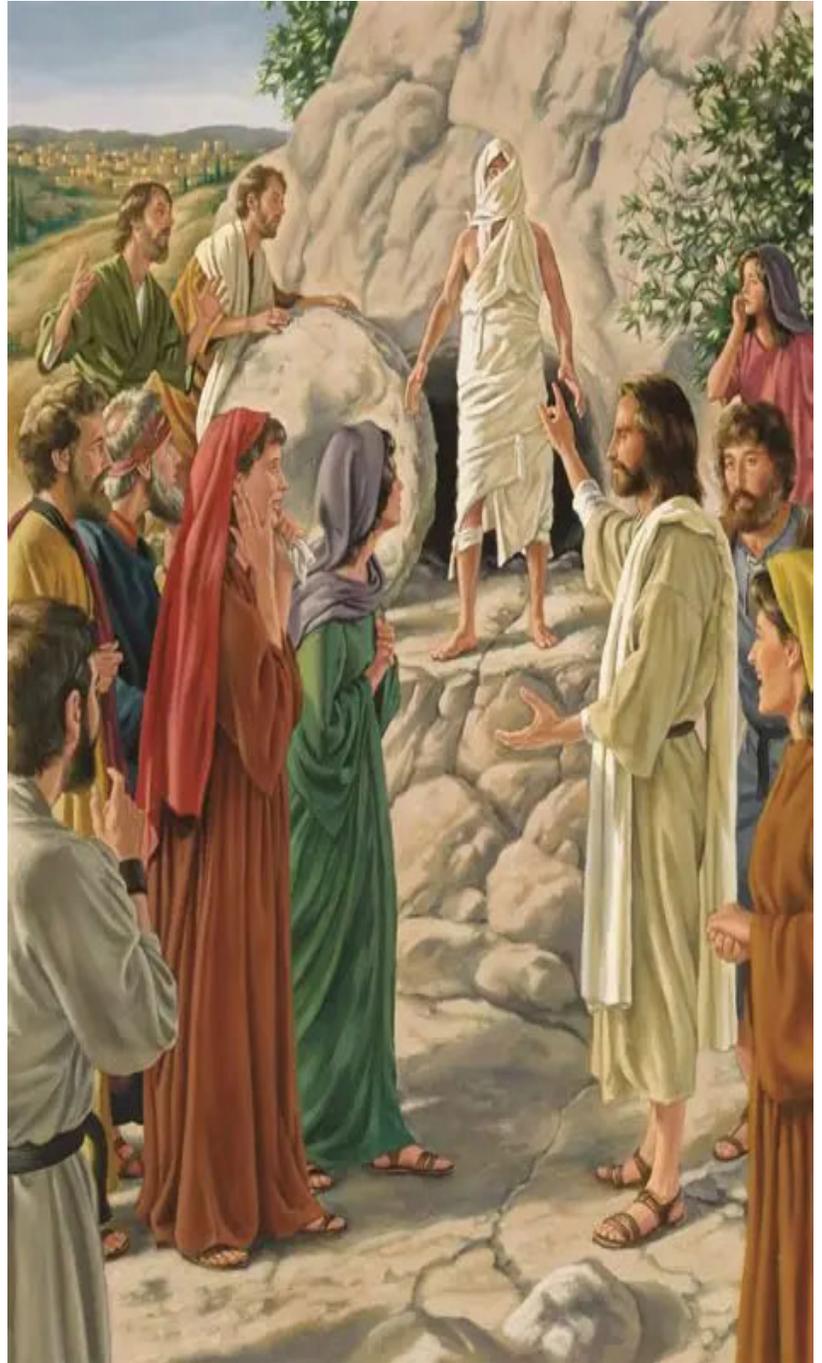
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orlando



5th Sunday of Lent March 22, 2026

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 21	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 22	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 22	10:30 am	+Jason McCarter Olson By Susi Olson
Mon Mar 23	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 24	8:30 am	+David G. Wilson By Mary Ellen Wilson Smith
Thu Mar 26	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 27	8:30 am	
Sat Mar 28	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 29	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 29	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

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



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, **April 5th** after the 10:30 am Mass.

LECTORS	EMHC
3/21-5:00 pm	
Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
322-10:30 am	
Alina Gutierrez Ryan Curtis	Martha Laurent Maureen Leckie
3/28-5:00 pm	
Maureen Leckie Victor Aguirre Barbara Van Orsdale- Passion	Ann Slocum Doug Van Orsdale
3/29-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Unique Gonzalez Martha Laurent-Passion	Pattie Scott George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

3/8	Regular	\$2609.00
	Maintenance	357.00
	Easter Flowers	267.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

3/8	Regular	976.00
	Maintenance	37.00

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2026

There is a drop box in the narthex for clean and gently used shirts.

HOLY THURSDAY AND THE EUCHARISTIC AMAZEMENT THAT HAS CAPTIVATED THE SAINTS

The last week in Lent is the Holiest Week of the Church's year. Holy Thursday—we remember an event that took place roughly 2,000 years ago: the Last Supper when Christ washed the feet of his disciples, instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood, and gave his disciples the new commandment to love as he loved. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is the liturgical remembrance of that historical event.

Have you ever wondered what the relationship is between the historical event of the Last Supper that occurred 2,000 years ago and the liturgical remembrance the Church celebrates on the evening of Holy Thursday?

Memorial: A Special Kind of Remembering

The relationship between the historical event of the Last Supper and its liturgical celebration has to do with a special kind of remembering. We

begin our answer by looking at the biblical understanding of the liturgical celebration of God's saving deeds, known as the *memorial*. For example, when Israel celebrated the memorial of the Passover, they weren't just thinking about what happened long ago. The celebration made the event "in a certain way present and real" (CCC, no. 1363).

This Old Testament understanding of memorial pointed to and was definitively fulfilled by Christ's saving sacrifice. At the Last Supper, Christ instituted the Eucharist and told the Apostles to celebrate it as a *memorial* until he returned. That means that every time the Eucharist is celebrated, the Paschal Mystery—Christ's Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension—"is made present: the sacrifice of Christ offered once for all on the cross remains ever present" (CCC, no. 1364).

Think about it. In whatever parish you are in, whether you are at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday or the early morning Mass on a weekday, Christ's saving sacrifice is present right there and right then. This is what we mean when we say that the Mass "is the memorial of Christ's Passover" (CCC, no. 1362), and it is "a mystery which surpasses our understanding and can only be received in faith." (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, no. 15).

Christ's Paschal Mystery Introduced a New Power into the World

How is it possible that Christ's Paschal Mystery remains *ever present*? When we think of historical events, we know that they happened once and then passed away. But the Paschal Mystery (Christ's Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension) is different. It is a unique historical event. Christ, by his Death, "destroyed death, and all that Christ is—all that he did and suffered for all men—participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life" (CCC, no. 1085).

Christ's Presence and Power Made Present in the Sacraments

The Church continues to present Pope St. Leo the Great's (+444) explanation of how all that Christ did and suffered is now made present. He wrote that "what was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries [the sacraments]" (*Sermo 74*, no. 2, quoted in CCC, no. 1115).

In other words, what Christ did during his earthly ministry he does now *sacramentally*. Christ's presence in the Eucharist is unique: under the appearances of bread and wine, "*the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained*" (CCC, no. 1374). Christ's real presence in the Eucharistic species does not exclude other types of presence, such as in the people gathered in his name and in the priest, "as if they could not be 'real' too" (CCC, no. 1374). Christ's Eucharistic presence "is presence in the fullest sense... Christ, God and man" (CCC, no. 1374). Under the Eucharistic species, Christ is "present in a totally unique way... as a person."² This means that everything Jesus did during his earthly ministry—teaching, healing, comforting, feeding, freeing—he continues to do today in the Mass. The only difference is the manner in which he does it: then in a *bodily* manner, now in a *sacramental* manner.

And there is more. When the mysteries of Christ's earthly ministry are made sacramentally present in the celebration of the Mass, we are able "to lay hold upon them and become filled with saving grace."³ In the course of the liturgical year, the liturgy "unfolds the whole mystery of Christ," from his Incarnation to his Ascension to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.⁴ This is the work of the Holy Spirit, for "in each celebration there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that makes the unique mystery present" (CCC, no. 1104). This means that the event of Christ's life that is being celebrated is made present. The Gospel of the day is one indication of the unique mystery being made present. What is Jesus doing? Is he teaching? Healing? What we hear in the Gospel, we can ask him to do the same in the Mass.

The prayers of the Mass also tell us about the graces of the unique mystery being made present. Consider the prayers of the Easter Vigil. We pray that we are "renewed in body and mind" so that we can give God "undivided service."⁵ We ask God, "Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart."⁶

(To be continued next week)



St. Thomas' Penance Service will take place on Thursday, March 26th at 7:00 pm.