

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



3rd Sunday of Lent March 8, 2026



Mass Intentions

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
Mon Mar 9	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 10	8:30 am	
Thu Mar 12	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 13	8:30 am	+Jack Kirkwood By Ann Sowle
Sat Mar 14	5:00 pm	
Sun Mar 15	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 15	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

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
3/7-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ann Spencer	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
3/8-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Confirmandi	Martha Laurent Maria Davila
3/14-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Ruth Palmer
3/15-10:30 am	
Oziemar Woodard Barbara Woodard	Theresa Cherry Evelyn Rivera

Saint Thomas Collection

2/22	Regular	\$2865.00
	Maintenance	415.00
	Diocesan	1296.00
	Easter Flowers	415.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

2/22	Regular	259.00
	Maintenance	40.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Diocesan Collection for Catholic Relief Services/World Mission Sunday will take place next weekend.

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.

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.

HOW TO LIVE A 'LITTLE' LENT

(continued from last week)

Pray, fast, give

Some may already see a clear path of growth for this season. For others, it may be hard to align an area of desired growth with specific spiritual practices. Thankfully, the Church provides us with a framework for Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. If you have discerned a specific goal but can't figure out a concrete path toward that goal, don't fret! Just introduce the trifacta of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and offer those practices to Jesus, asking him to transform your heart in the specific area you have discerned.

In recent years, I've noticed an increased focus on devotional practices instead of "giving up chocolate." This may be entirely my fault for being a certifiable chocoholic, but the advice to watch a daily spiritual video instead of sacrificing something specific (food or otherwise) seems incomplete to me. Yes, it's a great idea to take up a habit of Lenten meditation (and I'm not minimizing the merit of any of the wonderful programs of Lenten reflection that exist!), but we are ultimately asked to fast and pray, not fast or pray.

Here is a list of little ideas for each of the three foundational elements of the Lenten season to get you started.

Ways to pray

- Open your Bible every day
- Pray the Rosary
- Stop into an adoration chapel twice a week. To keep this truly simple, commit to stopping in rather than to praying for a certain block of time
- Take a daily 10 minute walk, and use that time to simply talk to Jesus.
- Begin saying a quick prayer in the morning or evening with your spouse.

Ways to fast

- Give up a particular food.
- –Delete the news app from your phone.
- –Turn off all technology after a certain time in the evening.
- –Only check your email once a day.

- —Set a bed time, and then start getting ready for bed a half hour before that time.

Ways to give

- Make a donation to a local Catholic charity.
- Pay a visit to someone who is sick or elderly.
- Make a weekly phone call to someone who may be lonely.
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.
- Find one little way to bring joy to your family each week.

Let the Holy Spirit lead you in creativity and simplicity (and ignore all my advice if he is calling you to something different!). And if you are able, choose Lenten disciplines that align with your Easter goal.

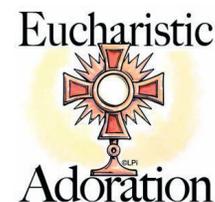
Living a "little" Lent is not a concession to mediocre or lukewarm spirituality. Rather, it's a call to remember that God loves you in and through even the tiniest moments of prayer and sacrifice. Give him those moments this Lent, and let him work in your heart.

Maria Mellis



The prayer group meets on Thursday from 9:00 am until 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

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



**Sunday 1:30 pm
Monday 9:00 am
Thursday 7:00 pm**