



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL  
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 22, 2026

1. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE AND ISRAEL.**
  
2. **The obligation to participate in the Eucharist in person on Sundays and other holy days of obligation was restored on Palm Sunday 2022.** Regular attendance at Mass is what fulfills God's commandment to "Keep holy the Sabbath Day". Our world is hurting. We all need healing yet many of us are separated from the source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist.
  
3. Our Parish bulletin can be viewed weekly online by clicking on the Bulletin button on our website at [www.stthomasbartow.org](http://www.stthomasbartow.org). There is also a button to view the previous week's bulletin if you missed it. If you do not have access to the internet, please let the office know, and copies can be printed. If you look at the bulletin on your phone, you can add an icon to your homepage by doing the following steps for an iphone.  
**1. Do a search for stthomasbartow.org. 2. When the page opens, Click (touch)** the small square with an arrow pointing up on the bottom of the screen. **3. Scroll** down and (touch "Add to Home Screen". **4. Click (touch)** "Add" in the upper right-hand corner. The next time you want to view the website, you only have to touch the new icon on your home page screen. If you need help finding the website or creating the icon on your phone, call the office or stop in the narthex after Mass for help. If you have an Android phone, please call the office for directions.
  
4. To subscribe to Bishop John Noonan's E-Scroll, news from the Diocese of Orlando go to [www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/](http://www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/). Just provide your name and email address.

5. Fr. Blake Britton, a priest in our Diocese, who is now at the Pontifical Institute of St. John Paul II in Washington DC for further studies, has written a book, *Reclaiming Vatican II, What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church*. If you would like to purchase the book, click on the following link: <https://books.wordonfire.org/reclaimingvaticanii>
  
6. Bishop Robert Barron, author, speaker, theologian and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry, is producing a seven volume Bible series. Volume I focuses on the Gospels, Volume II on Acts, Letters, and Revelation, Volume III, on The Pentateuch, Volume IV on The Promised Land and Volume V on Exile and Return. All are all available now at <https://wordonfire.org/bible>. Volume VI The Wisdom Literature and will be released at a later date. If you would like to subscribe to Bishop Barron's newsletter, go to <https://wordonfire.org/#newsletter> and just provide your email address.
  
7. In honor of Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN catholic television network, please consider a gift of \$10, \$20, or \$25 per month or any amount you choose.

## Catholic Trivia

**Did you know the Spring Equinox helps decide the date of Easter?** By linking Easter to the equinox and the full moon, the early Church preserved that biblical connection while ensuring the celebration always fell on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

Have you ever noticed that Easter seems to move all over the calendar? Some years it's in March. Other years it lands deep in April. Unlike Christmas, which is always December 25, Easter changes every year. The reason has something to do with the spring equinox... and even the moon.

This might sound surprisingly astronomical for a Church feast day, but the system actually goes back to the early Church and the Council of Nicaea in 325. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

In simpler terms, the Church follows a three-step rule:

1. First, the Church marks the spring equinox (traditionally March 21).
2. Then it waits for the first full moon after that date.
3. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after that full moon.

Because the equinox and the moon change slightly each year, the date of Easter moves as well. This means Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

Why the Equinox? The choice is not random. The Resurrection of Christ took place during Passover, which itself follows a lunar calendar connected to the spring season. By linking Easter to the equinox and the full moon, the early Church preserved that biblical connection while ensuring the celebration always fell on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

So when the days begin to lengthen in spring and the full moon rises after the equinox, the Church knows Easter is close.

It's a beautiful reminder that the entire created world—sun, moon, and seasons—quietly points toward the Resurrection.