



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29, 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. 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/. 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

Do you know what the symbols on the Paschal candle mean? At the Easter Vigil, the church begins in darkness. Then a single flame appears. The Paschal Candle is carried into the church, and the priest proclaims, “The Light of Christ.” One by one, the entire church fills with light. It is one of the most striking moments of the year. But if you look closely at that candle, you’ll notice something else...it’s covered in symbols. None of them are decorative. Every one of them is intentional.

The Cross At the center of the candle is always a cross. This reminds us that the Resurrection cannot be separated from the Cross. Christ conquers death not by avoiding suffering, but by passing through it.

Alpha and Omega

You’ll usually see two Greek letters: A (Alpha) and Ω (Omega). These come directly from Scripture: “I am the Alpha and the Omega... the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). They remind us that Christ is Lord of all time—everything begins and ends in Him.

The Year

The current year is inscribed on the candle. This is easy to overlook, but it matters. It means that the Resurrection is not just something that happened once long ago. Christ is alive now, in this moment, in this year.

The Five Grains of Incense

Five small “nails” or grains of incense are inserted into the candle. They represent the five wounds of Christ: His hands, His feet, and His side. Even in the light of the Resurrection, the wounds remain.

The Flame

And of course, the flame itself. The Paschal Candle represents Christ as the Light of the World (John 8:12). It is lit at Easter, but it does not disappear after that. It appears again at baptisms and funerals—at the beginning of life in Christ, and at the end—reminding us that His light does not go out. All of these symbols together tell one story: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is Lord of time, of suffering, and of life itself. It’s easy to miss these details in the moment. But once you see them, you begin to realize that the Paschal Candle is not just part of the liturgy—it is a kind of silent proclamation of the Gospel.