



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 8, 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 the amazing story of the St. Bernard Dog? You may have seen cartoons of them traversing mountain passes with barrels of brandy around their necks. You might even know a little about their history in the Swiss Alps of yesteryear. But do you know the real—and amazing—story of the St. Bernard Dog?

It all starts in 1050 with the Augustinian monk St. Bernard of Menthon, an archdeacon whose jurisdiction included a pass near the Swiss/Italian border. The pass was usually full of snow and subject to avalanches. He noticed that many pilgrims going to Rome endured much danger and hardship going through the pass, so he founded a hospice there to take care of them. The pass became known as the Great St. Bernard Pass and the hospice as the Great St. Bernard Hospice.

At some point the monks of the hospice came into possession of some big brawny dogs (the first records of them date to the end of the 17th century). They began to use these dogs to assist the mountain guides who took travelers through the pass. The dogs soon proved to be more than mere helpers, however. They displayed an uncanny ability to sniff out lost travelers trapped in the snow. Soon enough, the dogs were assigned to special operations, becoming the famed search-and-rescue (SAR) experts of the St. Bernard Pass.

Sometimes humans would go with them on SAR missions. But often the dogs would go out by themselves in groups of two or three. When they found a traveler, they would dig him out with their big paws, and one would stay and keep him warm while another went to fetch the monks.

The most famous SAR dog was “Barry der Menschenretter”—Barry the Man-saver—who rescued over forty people lost in the Pass between 1800 – 1812. The soldiers of Napoleon’s army, which traveled through the Pass, brought home stories of the intrepid dogs who inhabited the dangerous area.

The dogs served travelers all the way into the 1900s, with their SAR operations tapering off in modern times with the advent of safer roads and helicopters. But the St. Bernards will still be there to greet you if you ever visit their Pass—the breeding program was taken over by a foundation near the hospice, and visitors are welcome!

