

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



4th Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026

Mass Intentions

Sat Apr 25	5:00 pm	
Sun Apr 26	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Apr 26	10:30 am	
Mon Apr 27	8:30 am	
Tue Apr 28	8:30 am	
Thu Apr 30	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri May 1	8:30 am	
Sat May 2	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat May 2	5:00 pm	
Sun May 3	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 3	10:30 am	+Guadalupe Blanco By Maria & Rick Davila

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, David LaCalair, 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

Apr 6, 2018	Rev. Edward Hamilton
Apr 14, 2024	Rev. Clyde Bonar
Apr 17, 2017	Rev. Domingo Gonzalez
Apr 21, 2002	Most Rev. Thomas Grady
Apr 21, 2018	Rev. Eduardo Benitez
April 24, 2023	Rev. Sean Heslin
Apr 28, 1985	Rev. Luis Maris Padilla
Apr 29, 2014	Msgr. Terence Farrelly

FAMILY BALLROOM DANCE

On **May 17** following the 10:30 am Mass, there will be a Family Ballroom Dance session with Caroline Picart in the Social Hall. She will be teaching ballroom dances to the children and everyone who wants to learn. Come and learn or just come to watch. Plan to stay 1 ½ hours. A light lunch will be provided.

LECTORS	EMHC
4/25-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Pat Lowery	Ann Slocum Susan DeNeve
4/26-10:30 am	
Ryan Curtis Carrie Brown	Pattie Scott George Cherry
5/2-5:00 pm	
Unique Gonzalez Alina Gutierrez	Ruth Palmer Susan DeNeve
5/3-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Rick Davila	Maria Davila Martha Laurent

Saint Thomas Collection

4/12	Regular	\$1953.00
	Maintenance	325.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

4/12	Regular	461.00
	Maintenance	50.00

SECOND COLLECTION

This week's second collection is a Diocesan Collection for Black/Indian Missions and Catholic Home Missions.

MOTHER'S DAY ENVELOPES

Special Mother's Day Masses will be celebrated on **May 9th, 10th, and 11th**. Envelopes can be found in the pews.

COME TO PRAY

May 1 First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

May 2 First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstration.

Following Mass this weekend, there will be a lady in the Narthex providing information on supplemental insurance coverage. Please stop and talk to her if you are interested. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

If you know any students who are graduating this year, please let the office know so that we can honor them.

WHERE ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA DIED

While most people associate St. Catherine, whose feast day is celebrated on April 29th, with the Italian hill town of Siena, the Dominican Doctor of Church is one of the patron saints of Rome and spent her last years in the Eternal City, where one can visit her tomb and the room where she died.

Located around the corner from the Pantheon, the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena sits within the high altar of the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva under the striking blue and gold vaulted ceiling of Rome's only church with a Gothic interior.

Visitors can reach out and touch the marble tomb as they pray on kneelers behind the altar and many leave small pieces of paper scribbled with prayer intentions atop her sarcophagus.

Even lesser known than her tomb is the exact location where St. Catherine died. It can be found by walking two minutes from the basilica along the Via di Santa Chiara. The building where St. Catherine lived in Rome with some of her followers has been replaced with a theater, the Opera Lirica di Roma.

Hidden inside the theater building is a little gilded chapel dedicated to St. Catherine that marks the spot where she died in Rome. People who want to visit can simply stop by and tell the theater staff that they wish to pray in the chapel.

"Catherine is co-patroness of Rome with Peter and Paul because of her role in helping the papacy to return to Rome.

When Catherine was born in 1347, the pope was living in Avignon, France. Catherine was adamant that the pope needed to return to Rome, so much so that she went to Avignon and spoke with Pope Gregory XI encouraging him to fulfill a secret promise he had made that if he became pope, he would return the papacy to Rome.

Gregory eventually heeded her request and returned to Rome in 1370, but during the reign of his successor, Pope Urban VI, French cardinals unhappy with Urban's reform efforts elected an antipope in Avignon.

"Urban asks Catherine to come to Rome, so she came to Rome at the end of 1378 to help Urban with the reform."

"And Catherine, in the last months of her life, even though she was very sickly, would walk daily from here [her residence in Rome] to the Vatican. ... She would go there daily and pray for the pope."

You can see today right as you walk into the Vatican before you go into the main church in the narthex — if you turn around, above the entrance there is a mosaic of Christ and the boat with the apostles in it — that was from the original basilica. It was in a different spot, but it is reported that that is where Catherine prayed daily for the successor of Peter.

After Catherine died in the spring of 1380, the walls of the room where she died were moved to a small chapel inside the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. (This chapel can also be visited by passing through the basilica's sacristy, which is a historic location in itself for hosting two papal conclaves in the 15th century.)

Pope Pius IX named St. Catherine a co-patroness of Rome in April 1866. Pope Pius XII named Catherine a co-patron saint of Italy in 1939, along with St. Francis of Assisi.

One of the most important messages of Catherine she learned from Christ is this, "Do you know who you are and who I am?", Christ asked her one day, And he said to her, "You are she who is not. I am he who is." Now that is a challenging phrase because many people would think that means 'I am nothing.' Well, I am nothing before God because he created me and gave me everything. But in his eyes, I am everything because I am a human being that he loves.

And so, Catherine would say, Christ is crazy in love with you. He's madly in love with you. He's drunk in love with you. So Catherine's first message is understanding what it means to be a human being, to be loved by God. And that is important for every one of us.

THANK YOU

Big progress has been made on the Adoration Chapel. Thank you very much for all of your generous donations toward the chapel.