



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 12, 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

Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12. Learn more about this special feast day and how to celebrate it. As feast days go, Divine Mercy Sunday is relatively new. Established in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II, Divine Mercy Sunday was first revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s.

During a series of apparitions, the Lord told Faustina, in part: “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners....The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment....My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout eternity.”

Pope John Paul II held a fondness for Divine Mercy Sunday throughout his life. When he officially established the feast day on the second Sunday of Easter, Pope John Paul II reiterated the power of God’s mercy towards all of His children: “To all of humanity, who often appear lost and overwhelmed by the prevalence of evil, self-centeredness, and fear, the Risen Lord extends His loving gift — a love that forgives, brings reconciliation, and renews hope within the soul.”

To properly celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday you should:

1. Go to Confession before the feast and sincerely repent all sins.
2. Receive Holy Communion on that Sunday or its vigil.
3. Venerate the image of the Divine Mercy.
4. Show God’s mercy towards others in all you do and say.

A wonderful way to venerate the image of the Divine Mercy is to pray the Chaplet. In addition, Pope St. John Paul II issued a plenary indulgence for the faithful who attend confession and Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. “*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world!*”



Divine Mercy image at the Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Kraków-Łagiewniki