



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

## ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 19, 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 four years ago 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

**How often do you pray the Divine Mercy Novena?** Our Lord promised immense graces to those who recite it.

We celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday last week so you are familiar with the messages of Divine Mercy given by Our Lord to St. Faustina Kowalska. Perhaps you often pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet that He gave her as part of these revelations.

Jesus, I trust in You! But do you know the story of what He said about praying this Chaplet as a nine-day novena?



In 1935, St. Faustina received a vision of an angel sent to chastise a city. An interior voice inspired her to beseech the Father for mercy, using words very similar to those we now use for the Chaplet. As Faustina prayed, the angel became powerless to carry out his task. The next day as she visited the chapel, again Our Lord spoke to her interiorly, telling her to recite the prayer He taught her the previous day every time she entered the chapel.

He said:

*“This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days, on the beads of the rosary...”*

He then gave exact instructions on how to pray the Chaplet. Our Lord further gave St. Faustina many promises for the recitation of the Chaplet, speaking to her of its efficacy for the conversion of sinners and for the dying. He specifically requested a novena of Chaplets leading up to the Feast of Mercy (the Sunday after Easter), saying: *“By this Novena, [of Chaplets] I will grant every possible grace to souls.”*

The Novena we prayed before Divine Mercy Sunday began on Good Friday, and was completed on the feast day. **However, this novena can be prayed at any time of the year!** It is immensely pleasing to our merciful Lord and is a source of immeasurable grace for us and those we love.