



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 26, 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. 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

“Hide in here, Father.” The priest quickly gathered up the altar vessels. He ran down the darkened hallway to where someone was already sliding out the panel of a stair, revealing a cramped space underneath. Without a word, he slipped inside. Such was the life of a priest in Elizabethan England. The Holy Mass had been outlawed and any priest caught celebrating it would be imprisoned, tortured, or killed. Those who refused to acknowledge the Queen as the head of the Church of England were guilty of high treason.

But these priests weren't about to just give up offering the Mass. It was too precious, and the souls of their flock were too hungry, especially during such a time of persecution. It was the priests' job to feed their sheep—come torture, come death, come rack, come rope. It was the risk they took when they offered their lives to God.

But the Catholic families of England were not, in their turn, going to let their priests go to prison and death if they could help it. So, they hid these priests within their homes, where they could offer the Holy Sacrifice without detection. These brave families equipped their dwellings with “priest holes” in which a priest could hide when the dreaded “priest hunters” came knocking at the door.

These holes had to be clever. The authorities would be looking carefully, knocking on the walls for hollow spaces, checking under floorboards, probing the dark corners of every closet. Catholics needed the skill of someone like Nicholas Owen, the Jesuit lay brother who created some of the most ingenious and invisible priest holes of all time. You can still see some of his masterpieces in various houses in England, with some possibly remaining undiscovered.

Nicholas was eventually caught and tortured to death, earning the martyr's crown, and canonized along with his intrepid fellow Jesuit Fr. Edmund Campion and thirty-eight other English martyrs in 1970.