

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

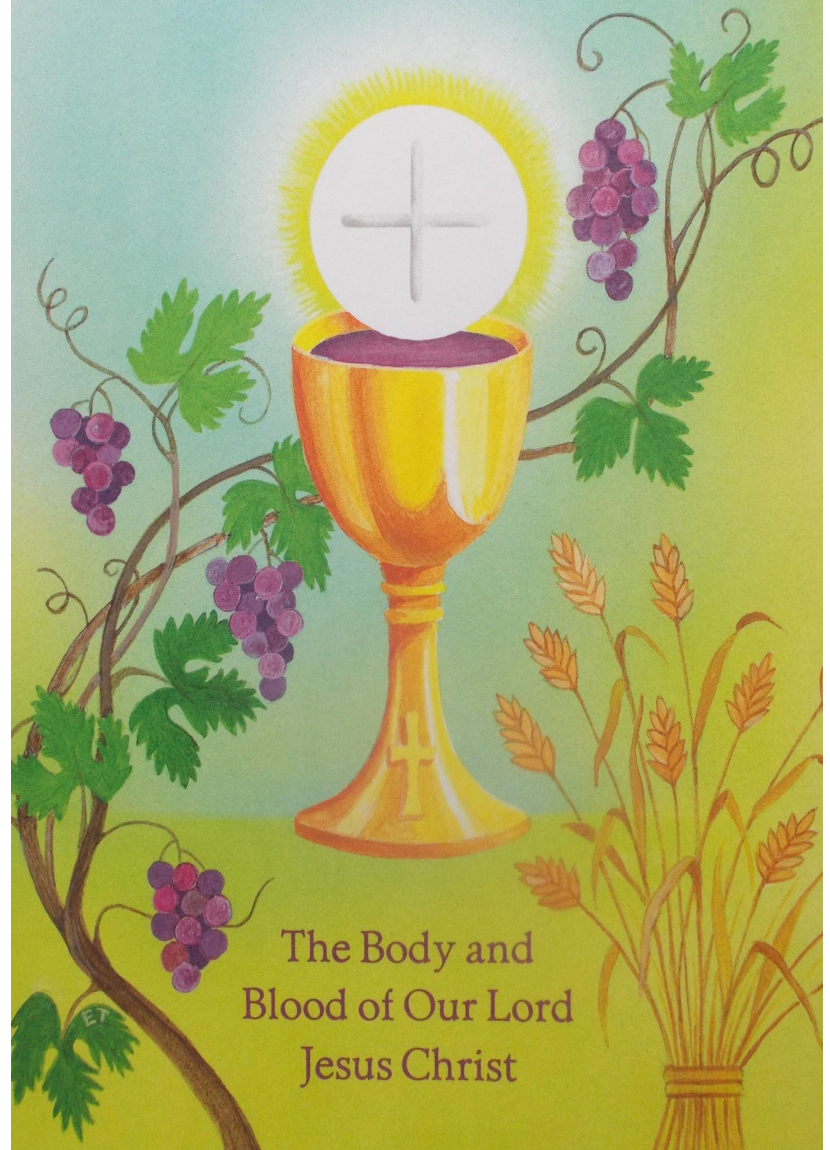
Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orlando

FIRST HOLY Communion



The Body and
Blood of Our Lord
Jesus Christ

6th Sunday of Easter May 10, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat May 9	5:00 pm	For All Mothers
Sun May 10	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 10	10:30 am	For All Mothers
Mon May 11	8:30 am	For All Mothers
Tue May 12	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Thu May 14	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri May 15	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Sat May 16	5:00 pm	
Sun May 17	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 17	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

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

May 1, 2005 Rev. John Garvy
 May 6, 2013 Rev. Patrick O'Carroll
 May 20, 2010 Rev. James John MacLoughlin
 May 30, 2020 Msgr. Fachtna Joseph Harte

ASCENSION

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus, celebrated forty days after Easter, commemorates the moment when the risen Christ, in the sight of his apostles, ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). It marks the completion of his earthly mission and the beginning of his exaltation at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us as our eternal High Priest. Ascension is on Thursday, **May 14th**, but will be celebrated on Sunday, **May 17th**.

LECTORS	EMHC
5/9-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer	Doug Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer
5/10-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Confirmandi	George Cherry Evelyn Rivera
5/16-5:00 pm	
Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
5/17-10:30 am	
Caroline Picart Carolyn King	Theresa Cherry Maureen Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

4/26	Regular	\$1821.00
	Maintenance	100.00
	Mother's Day	32.00
	Diocesan	506.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

4/26	Regular	202.00
	Diocesan	67.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection is a Diocesan Collection for Catholic Communications.

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.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Karen Carrera-Perez, Jonathan Flores, Jovanna Flores, Lylah Gonzalez, Henry Gutierrez, Nicole Montano, and Jose Pablo Rodriguez who were confirmed on May 2nd.



HIDDEN LESSON OF LOURDES

(continued from last week)

In retrieving and highlighting the universal call to holiness, the Second Vatican Council taught:

“Finally, all Christ's faithful, whatever be the conditions, duties and circumstances of their lives — and indeed through all these, will daily increase in holiness, if they receive all things with faith from the hand of their heavenly Father and if they cooperate with the divine will. In this temporal service, they will manifest to all men the love with which God loved the world” ([Lumen Gentium](#), 41).

The conditions, duties and circumstances of our daily lives are the means by which we grow and increase in holiness. If we want authentic holiness, there is no maneuvering around or avoiding its real work. Holiness is found right in front of us.

It is a blessing to be inspired by sanctuaries and shrines, apparitions and miracles. Our faith sometimes needs these gifts. They animate us and motivate us to pursue the things of God, to cooperate more generously with grace, and to recommit ourselves to the way of the Lord Jesus, especially through the many daily crosses that make us holy.

Lourdes is a beautiful and powerful place that compels holiness in the lives of those who visit or learn about it. And yet, if there are not countless variations of Nevers behind Lourdes where people are seeking to do the daily work of holiness, then it has missed the mark and is not the place Our Lady wants or the place the Lord Jesus deserves.

From Fr Jeffrey Kirby

THE EASIEST WAY TO DE-BANALIZE LITURGY

Let me propose a way to instantly improve the liturgy at your parish. Stop announcing things before they happen. No more quasi-liturgical “Good morning” at the beginning of Mass, no more “the response is...” before the responsorial psalm, no more announcing the page to turn to for the hymn. and not make the liturgy like a TV show with too much expositional dialogue.

Good morning/welcome. The first thing the priest say to the congregation after the sign of the Cross is, “The Lord be with you”. Have we really considered what this means? It's both a greeting and a prayer that actually brings about the reality of the Lord being with us. Doesn't “good morning” or “welcome” seem a little weak in comparison to what makes the morning good? Worse still, a “good morning” from the priest after the sign of the cross becomes quasi-liturgical.

Announcing the hymn number. This is easy to handle: have one of those boards with numbers for the day's Mass. We shouldn't rely quite so much on hymns, since they aren't actually part of the Mass. The liturgical texts, including the antiphons, should be given musical priority. Pastors and music directors might consider reducing the hymns down to one or two, perhaps outside of the Mass itself—such as a processional hymn at the beginning and then the seasonal Marian antiphon as a recessional. The mania for *active* participation led to a decrease in *interior* participation there is less opportunity to contemplate what is happening beyond the words.

Do we trust that the Mass the Church has given us is sufficient, a self-contained act of worship that unites us in communion as one Body of Christ? If so, then let us have the confidence to let the rite speak for itself.

The Mass is, in the end, a mystery. Just like a work of art, when everything is explained—even things that are already obvious—the mystery can lose its allure, especially when the human explanations begin to obscure the divine reality. That is one reason so many walked away from the Mass decades ago. But the rediscovery of mystery is bringing many back, especially the young, who are hungry for something beyond explanation, so surprising that no announcement can prepare us for it, so ancient that no announcement is needed.

Thomas V. Mirus



May the Month of Mary