

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
evecoultter@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



Pentecost Sunday May 24, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat May 23	5:00 pm	All Souls in Purgatory
Sun May 24	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 24	10:30 am	
Mon May 25	8:30 am	+Rena Wilson By Mary Ellen Wilson Smith
Tue May 26	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Thu May 28	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri May 29	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Sat May 30	5:00 pm	
Sun May 31	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 31	10:30 am	

LECTORS	EMHC
5/23-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Ann Spencer	Ann Slocum Susan DeNeve
5/24-10:30 am	
Ryan Curtis Maureen Leckie	Pattie Scott Goerge Cherry
5/30-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Mike DeNeve	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
5/31-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Martha Laurent Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

5/10	Regular	\$1574.00
	Maintenance	344.00
	Mother's Day	145.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

5/10	Regular	419.00
	Maintenance	32.00

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

Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles, marking the birth of the Church and empowering believers for mission and unity.



How consoling it is to know the telephone number of a friend, to know good people who love us, who are always available and never aloof: at any time we can call them and they can call us. This is precisely what the Incarnation of God in Christ says to us: God has written our names and phone numbers in his address book! He is always listening; we do not need money or technology to call him. Thanks to baptism and confirmation, we are privileged to belong to his family.

Pope Benedict XVI

WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY?

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May to honor members of the U.S. armed forces who have died while serving in the country's military. It is a solemn day of remembrance, not a celebration, and is often considered the unofficial start of summer.



JOHN PAUL II EMBODIED THE HEROISM OF CHRISTIAN HOLINESS

(continued from last week)

To follow Jesus faithfully — to be holy as he is holy, to love as he loves — is a summary of his life and of the Christian life.

John Paul II wrote in his ecclesial game plan for the third Christian millennium, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (2001), that the Church is essentially a vocational school meant to train people to become saints, just as much as vocational-technical high schools train students to become carpenters, electricians, cooks and plumbers.

“I have no hesitation,” he stressed, “in saying that all pastoral initiatives must be set in relation to holiness.” By this, he did not mean just that preaching, celebrating the sacraments, prayer and works of mercy must be connected to the work of sanctification, but also that Catholic education, health care, social justice work, charities, rectory and chancery work, and the setting of budgets need to be related to holiness as well. Everything the Church does must be geared to divinizing the human person.

“It is necessary,” he emphasized, “to rediscover the full practical significance of ... the universal call to holiness.” The call to become a saint must be made practical, as “a task that must shape the whole of Christian life.” John Paul II sought to illustrate the practical aspects of holiness in his beatifications and canonizations of so many “who attained holiness in the most ordinary circumstances of life.”

But he also recognized that just as singers, athletes, artisans and professionals need both teaching and training, so the Church has to make sure that all the faithful recognize that they’re called to true spiritual greatness in their day-to-day life and to provide them an adequate instruction to help them achieve that grandeur.

He challenged those Christians who believed that the Christian life is compatible with “a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity,” saying that baptism is an introduction into the holiness of God and sets a Christian on a trajectory to be “perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

He also challenged those who misunderstood the ideal of Christian perfection as “some kind of

extraordinary existence, possible only for a few ‘uncommon heroes’ of holiness.”

We don’t need to wear a hairshirt, fast on bread and water for years, learn ancient Hebrew, flee to a desert monastery, or spend eight hours a day in Eucharistic adoration. Rather, he said, the “ways of holiness are many, according to the vocation of each individual.” But he insisted, “The time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this high standard of ordinary Christian living,” stating that “the whole life of the Christian community and of Christian families must lead in this direction.”

To help people meet this standard, he said, the Church must provide “genuine training in holiness, adapted to people’s needs.” Among the many treasures of spiritual help offered by the Church — the sacraments, the word of God, retreats, approved movements, magisterial documents and so much more — he highlighted six in particular, encouraging all Catholics to open themselves to receive all they contain: grace, prayer, the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, listening to the word of God, and proclaiming the word of God in word and deed. These means of holiness are offered to everyone in the Church, from someone just baptized at the Easter Vigil to the Pope himself. Pope John Paul II’s life shows us what happens when one avails oneself of those treasures.

The Church, while always remaining a hospital for sinners, exists to be a school of saints, meeting us wherever we are and training us to respond all the way to Christ’s call “Follow me!” in the day-to-day circumstances of our lives. It’s a worldwide exercise room to help us work out the moral muscles of the virtues so that we may be capable of real heroism in faith, hope and love.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of his *natus spiritalis*, let us heed John Paul II’s oft-repeated words, “Be not afraid!” and with courage respond to his witness and intercession to make fully practical this call to holiness he spent his pontificate echoing and enfleshing throughout the world.

Msgr Roger Landry