

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 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

Email: [office@stthomasbartow.org](mailto:office@stthomasbartow.org)  
Phone 863-533-8578  
Fax 863- 533-5090  
[www.stthomasbartow.org](http://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*



# The Most Holy Trinity May 31, 2026



## Mass Intentions

Sat May 30	5:00 pm	
Sun May 31	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun May 31	10:30 am	
Mon Jun 1	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Tue Jun 2	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Thu Jun 4	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jun 5	8:30 am	+Devassykutty
Sat Jun 6	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Jun 6	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Jun 7	10:30 am	+Jorge & +Matilda Espinosa By Martha & John Laurent

May 31<sup>st</sup> will be the last Sunday Mass for Saint Elizabeth until the Fall.

### 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***

June 1, 2001	Rev. Albert Fornace
June 10, 1976	Rev. Paul Woodyard
June 10, 2021	Rev. Franklin Salazar
June 11, 2024	Rev. Peter Puntal
June 20, 2021	Rev. Peter Henry
June 21, 2023	Rev. Sean Cooney
June 22, 1990	Msgr. Michael Beerhalte
June 27, 1976	Rev. William Corry
June 28, 1993	Rev. Mariano Coba

LECTORS	EMHC
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
6/6-5:00 pm	
Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
6/7-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Rick Davila	Evelyn Rivera Maria Davila

### Saint Thomas Collection

5/17	Regular	\$1689.00
	Maintenance	50.00
	Easter	150.00
	Diocesan	288.00
	Ascension	195.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

5/17	Regular	383.00
	Diocesan	95.00

## FATHER'S DAY ENVELOPES

Special Father's Day Masses will be celebrated on **June 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please return your envelopes before June 20<sup>h</sup>. Father's Day is a reminder to pray for our Fathers.

## COME TO PRAY

**June 4** First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

**June 5** First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**June 6** First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.

## CORPUS CHRISTI 2026

Corpus Christi Sunday is next Sunday, June 7. As in previous years, we will have the Corpus Christi procession on the streets of our town following the 10:30 am Mass. Please join us for this important way to offer prayers for all the people of our city.

## DOES RECEPTION OF THE EUCHARIST REPLACE CONFESSION?

It is true that a devout reception of holy Communion can forgive venial (less serious) sins. Like the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins” (1394).

But reception of holy Communion does not impart the forgiveness of “mortal,” or very serious, sins. Not only is a person who has committed an unconfessed mortal sin prohibited from receiving Communion as a matter of sacramental discipline (see Canon 916 of the Code of Canon Law for reference), but a person who receives Communion illicitly in this way can actually endanger his or her soul by committing sacrilege.

As St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians: “Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. ... For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

So, on that very practical level, holy Communion does not replace confession, in that a person who has committed a mortal sin needs the sacrament of penance to be able to approach the Eucharist at all in the first place.

But also, perhaps obviously, confession is a different sacrament with its own distinct focus, and it would seem to be pastoral common sense that those seeking specifically the forgiveness of any kind of sin would most fruitfully do so in the sacrament that was “custom built” for that purpose.

When considering how often to go to confession, I think it becomes important to make a distinction between the question of: “What is the bare minimum required of Catholics?” versus “what does the Church propose as the ideal?” and “what should we do so that we may actively grow in our life of faith?”

Very strictly speaking, Catholics above the age of 7 are only required to go to confession once

a year if they have committed a mortal sin since their last confession (see Canon 989).

But the Church encourages the faithful to approach the sacrament of penance much more often, even for merely venial sins. The Catholic Church has a long tradition of promoting what is called “devotional confessions,” or the confession of minor sins even in the absence of grave ones just for the sake of growing closer to the Lord.

St. John Paul II expressed this teaching in his 2004 address to the Apostolic Penitentiary (the Vatican “department” that oversees many issues related to the sacrament of penance) when he noted: “It would be an illusion to want to strive for holiness in accordance with the vocation that God has given to each one of us without frequently and fervently receiving this sacrament of conversion and sanctification.”

And, as long as we approach the sacrament in a reasonable and considerate way, it’s not “bothering the priest” to seek out opportunities for a devotional confession.

In fact, canon law requires that parish priests must: “strive to ensure that the faithful are nourished by the devout celebration of the sacraments, and in particular that they frequently approach the sacraments of the blessed Eucharist and penance” (Canon 528, 2).

*Jenna Marie Cooper*

### ***Confirmation is the most underrated of the seven sacraments***

It’s the fulfillment of baptism, and you can’t underestimate that. In baptism, we received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. But those gifts aren’t fully activated until we’re confirmed. It’s like somebody giving me a check, but then I put it in a drawer. It’s not until I cash it that the power is released and fully effective. In our faith, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit we get at baptism are activated at confirmation. And then we go out and we *bear* the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Basically, the gifts are activated and start to bear fruit at confirmation.