



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 10, 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

**What image is hidden in the eyes of Our Lady of Guadalupe?** The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, miraculously imprinted on St. Juan Diego's tilma in 1531, holds marvelous secrets.



Michelangelo once said, "Only God creates. The rest of us just copy." Certainly the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe illustrates the divine artistry of God. The viewer can be deeply moved simply by gazing upon the graceful composition of the image: Our Lady's gentle expression, the radiant colors, the intricate details.

But the beauty and symbolism of this portrait go far deeper than what we can see with unaided eyes. In 1929 and again in the 1950s, the image of a human figure was discovered within Our Lady's eyes. Further studies revealed that this image was tripled and somewhat distorted, just as a reflection in a live human eye would be. More recently, an engineer named Dr. José Aste Tonsmann, who began his studies on Our Lady of Guadalupe's eyes in 1979, said there are *many* more figures reflected in her gaze.

Tonsmann magnified Our Lady's eyes x2500 and found a scene depicted in them: the very moment when Juan Diego unfolded his tilma to reveal the miraculous image to Bishop Juan de Zumárraga. Other witnesses to that famous scene are visible, too. But Dr. Tonsmann's studies revealed even more. Another group is visible at the center of Our Lady's eyes: a family, with a father, mother, and several children. Two more figures are apparent behind the mother, which Tonsmann thinks are grandparents. Tonsmann conjectures that perhaps this image of a family remained undiscovered until modern techniques could reveal it, so that we would see this image at a time when the family was under attack.

The incredible images found within Our Lady's eyes add to the miraculous features of this divinely-imprinted portrait. Studies have repeatedly shown that no paint, pigment, undersketching, or brush strokes were used to create it. Moreover, the plant fiber of the tilma should have disintegrated after twenty years. 500 years later, they survive in beautiful condition.