



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 31, 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

“No Greater Love”: the Catholic chaplains who gave everything. “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

As Americans, we need to remember not only the wars fought or the victories won, but the men and women who willingly gave their lives in service to others. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation, remembrance feels even more significant. A country cannot endure without memory, gratitude, and an understanding of sacrifice.

Fr. Joseph O’Callahan - ministered heroically aboard the USS Franklin after catastrophic attacks left the ship engulfed in flames.

Fr. Emil Kapaun - ministered to prisoners of war in Korea even while suffering starvation and eventual death himself.

Vincent Capodanno - ran repeatedly into combat zones in Vietnam to aid wounded soldiers and Marines before being killed while administering last rites.

Fr. Charles Watters - died carrying wounded men to safety during the Vietnam War.

Catholic priests are “borrowed” from dioceses across the United States and commissioned to minister to members of the military and their families, both at home and abroad. They celebrate Mass on military bases, hear confessions in combat zones, accompany the wounded, counsel grieving families, and bring the presence of Christ into places most civilians will never see. These priests entered the horrors of war unarmed, carrying only the love of Christ and the sacred duty to care for the souls entrusted to them.

Even today, military chaplains continue to serve quietly and faithfully throughout the world. Their witness reminds us that sanctity is not confined to monasteries or chapels. Holiness can also appear amid smoke, fear, chaos, and sacrifice.

The military chaplains hold a special place at Arlington, particularly at Chaplains Hill, where Fr. Charles Watters now rests among fellow chaplains who served and sacrificed for those entrusted to their care.

