

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: 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 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***



# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## June 21, 2026



### Mass Intentions

Sat Jun 20	5:00 pm	For All Fathers
Sun Jun 21	10:30 am	For All Fathers
Mon Jun 22	8:30 am	For All Fathers
Tue Jun 23	8:30 am	+David G. and +Rena Wilson By Mary Ellen Wilson Smith
Thu Jun 25	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jun 26	8:30 am	For All Parishioners
Sat Jun 27	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Jun 28	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 Gohman, 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

*"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."*

*Billy Graham*

LECTORS	EMHC
6/20-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Pat Lowery
6/21-10:30 am	
Maureen Leckie Alina Gutierrez	Theresa Cherry Maureen Leckie
6/27-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Ryan Curtis	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
6/28-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Pattie Scott Martha Laurent

### Saint Thomas Collection

6/7	Regular	\$2748.00
	Maintenance	339.00
	Father's Day	336.00

### Saint Elizabeth Collection

6/7	Regular	525.00
-----	---------	--------

### SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection is the Peter's Pence Collection (Collection for the Holy Father).

### LOOK TO THE SPIRITUAL CLASSICS TO FIND JOY IN SUFFERING

If we seek to conform ourselves to Christ, then we seek to conform ourselves to his cross. In the timeless spiritual classic, "[The Imitation of Christ](#)," whose authorship is commonly attributed to Thomas á Kempis, we receive profound insights into suffering. In our modern society, suffering is to be avoided at all costs, and if avoidance is impossible, then numbing it is the next best step. What if suffering was viewed not only as beneficial but desirable in advancing on the path of holiness? The writers of some of the great Catholic spiritual classics have much to say on the presence and purpose of suffering.

### What's the point of suffering?

We know that Christ, who was perfect in every way and knew nothing of sin, could not escape pain and suffering in this life. How, then, could we as imperfect and sinful persons possibly avoid what he could not? Suffering is so large a cross that one can only bear it — let alone desire to bear it — if they believe that by doing so they

will arrive closer to Christ and become as like him as possible. Á Kempis writes, “In the cross is health, in the cross is life; in the cross is the fullness of heavenly sweetness, in the cross is strength of mind, joy of spirit, height of virtue, full perfection of all holiness.” This can only be because the cross is the means — the road one travels — in order to reach the greatest of gifts: Christ and his kingdom.

In spending time learning about the lives of the saints and their written works as part of my theology coursework, I encountered the recurring theme of embracing suffering. Suffering can be used to strengthen and strip us bare of the sins of pride, earthly attachments, and false allusions of our own power and control, unveiling the reality that we owe everything to Christ who suffered the most. Through his passion, he redeemed and gave meaning to suffering by calling us to unite our crosses with his for the salvation of the world.

### Words from the saints

The saints quoted below are a small number of the many whom the Church believes now joyfully and without fail intercede on our behalf. These pilgrims carried the cross before us and even at times achieved a holy jealousy over those around them who were suffering, desiring that they, too, would be given the opportunity to unite themselves more fully to Christ through this form of sanctification. May you be sustained and strengthened by their saintly words.

–On the loss of good and the sufferings that result to achieve that good once more, St. Augustine in his “[Confessions](#)” (A.D. 300s) writes: “What is it in the soul, I ask, that makes it delight more to have found or regained the things it loves than if it had always had them? ... Universally, the greater joy is heralded by greater pain.” Suffering as a result of faithfully pursuing a great good results in a fulfillment far more elevated and deepened upon reaching our goal than if we had never struggled to attain it.

–On being patient amid suffering instead of constantly longing for the pain to leave us, St. Benedict in his Rules for Monasteries (A.D. 500s) writes: “We may by patience share in the sufferings of Christ and deserve to have a share also in his kingdom.”

–On conversion of heart regarding one’s opinion toward the value of suffering, St. Teresa of Ávila in “The Way of Perfection” (15th century) writes: “There is no poverty, trouble, or persecution, which is not easy to bear, if we once begin to taste and relish His sufferings.”

–On suffering as the deepest expression of love, St. Catherine of Siena in “[The Dialogue](#)” (13th c) writes: “Mysteriously, God deepens His love by sharing with us the cross of His Son: Suffering and sorrow increase in proportion to love.”

–On believing and seeing God drawing closest to us in our suffering, Jean-Pierre de Caussade in “[Abandonment to Divine Providence](#)” (18th c) writes: “[In] all you suffer ... [these are] mysterious by which God gives Himself to you.” Author Peter Cameron, in commenting on this particular work, explains: “We need faith in order to see God at work in the raging torrents of so much distress, so many troubles, so much embarrassment and weakness, and so many setbacks that he allows. In turn, faith, de Caussade assures us, “is nourished and strengthened by these happenings.”

God may not wish suffering upon us, but he does meet us most intimately in our suffering, enabling it to assist in our holiness, and allowing our willingness to suffer to serve as a stark example of grace to a world that rejects pain. Therefore, it might bear fruit and contribute to the salvation of others. In this way, suffering, when viewed well, does not have to be something we numb ourselves or run from, but can be something we embrace for the sake of Christ and the world.

*Allison DeBoer-Ramirez*

**SUMMER FUN WITH JESUS**  
WEDNESDAYS 5:00-7:00 PM  
**JUNE 24 - JULY 22**  
Pray, Play, Games, Helping Others, Crafts  
-Food, Drinks, Snacks, Provided-

**FREE**  
Ages 4-18

Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"

Register in person  
Any Questions Please Call  
863-327-2607 - Martina