



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 14, 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

Who first used the term Catholic to refer to Christ's True Church? Have you ever wondered where the word Catholic came from? Did it develop gradually over time? Or does it go back to the earliest Christians? It came from a man who knew the apostles.

Around A.D. 107, St. Ignatius of Antioch was being escorted to Rome for execution because of his Christian faith. Along the journey, he wrote a series of letters to encourage fellow Christians to remain united in the faith. In one of those letters, addressed to the Christians in Smyrna, he wrote: "Wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." This is the earliest known written use of the phrase "the Catholic Church" that has survived to our own day. That fact alone is remarkable.

Ignatius was not writing hundreds of years after the apostles. He lived in the generation immediately following them. In fact, Christian tradition holds that he was a disciple of St. John the Apostle himself. Even more interesting is the way Ignatius uses the term. He does not stop to explain what "Catholic" means. He simply uses it as though his readers already understand it. That suggests the word was already familiar within the Christian community.

The word comes from the Greek *katholikos*, which means "universal" or "according to the whole." For the early Christians, the Catholic Church was not merely a local congregation or a regional movement. It was the worldwide Church founded by Christ and handed on through the apostles. Over time, the term took on an additional meaning. It not only referred to the Church's universality, but also helped distinguish the authentic apostolic faith from groups that broke away from it.

Interestingly, Ignatius was writing at a time when Christianity was still young and often persecuted. There were no great cathedrals. No Christian nations. No legal protections. Yet already the Church understood herself as something larger than any one city, language, or culture. She was catholic.

That understanding remains just as relevant today. The Church spans continents, cultures, languages, and centuries. Catholics may worship in different places and speak different tongues, but they share the same faith handed down from the apostles. St. Ignatius recognized that reality nearly two thousand years ago as he journeyed toward martyrdom.