



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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 7, 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

**Consecration of USA to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In the Bible, the word consecration means “the separation of oneself from anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God.”

In 1899, Pope Leo XIII composed an Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He witnessed several of the world's horrors and turned to the Sacred Heart. In his encyclical, "Annum Sacrum," he wrote, "Today, behold another blessed and heavenly token is offered to our sight - the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, with a cross rising from it and shining forth with dazzling splendor amidst flames of love. In that Sacred Heart all our hopes should be placed, and from it the salvation of men is to be confidently besought."

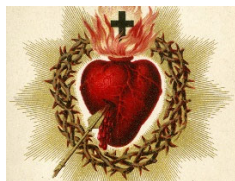
Pope Leo XIII consecrated the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 1899. The consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was a response to numerous demands that had been addressed to Pope Pius IX over 25 years. The consecration, was influenced by two letters written to the pope by Sister Mary of the Divine Heart who stated that in visions of Jesus Christ she had been told to request the consecration. St. Gertrude the Great (1256 – ca. 1302) and St. Mechtilde (Gertrude's younger sister) made veneration of Christ's heart a central devotion which they practiced. Later, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque promoted the devotion to the Sacred Heart just as Jesus commanded her to do. In 1670, a special feast to honor the Sacred Heart was established in France and later expanded to the entire Church as the solemnity we celebrate today on June 12. The motive of consecration is the need for the faithful to reciprocate God's love for His creation, especially for man. Since June 11, 1899 every Pope has renewed the consecration to the Sacred Heart.

Pope Leo wished to “obtain ‘extraordinary benefits first for Christianity, but also for the whole human race’ (Annum sacrum). Asking that all people should be consecrated, he gave a new direction and sense to the consecration which had already been practiced for two centuries by individuals, groups, Dioceses and nations.”

The value of what took place on 11 June 1899 was authoritatively confirmed in the writings of many Popes, who offered doctrinal reflections on the devotion to the Sacred Heart. Among these are Pope Pius X, who directed in 1906 that the consecration be renewed every year. Pope Pius XI who recalled it in his Encyclicals in the context of the Holy Year of 1925, and his successor, the Servant of God Pius XII, who treated it in his Encyclicals. St. Paul VI, then,

in the light of the Second Vatican Council, wished to make reference to it in his Apostolic Epistle and in his Letters on 25 May 1965.

As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God bestows upon our nation, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we may foster truth, justice and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the life we live in our communities.



### ***Prayer to the Sacred Heart***

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
I give you thanks and praise  
for all your many gifts and blessings,  
especially the love you shower upon me.*

*Be with me each moment of this day,  
Help me to be mindful of your never  
ending love and inspire me to show  
my love for you by responding  
generously to the needs of others.*

*May I become your eyes, your ears,  
your hands, your voice in a world  
which hungers for love and  
forgiveness.*

*In all that I say, in all that I do this  
day, may I do it for you.  
Be with me, Lord, and bless me.  
Amen*