

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
evcoult@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

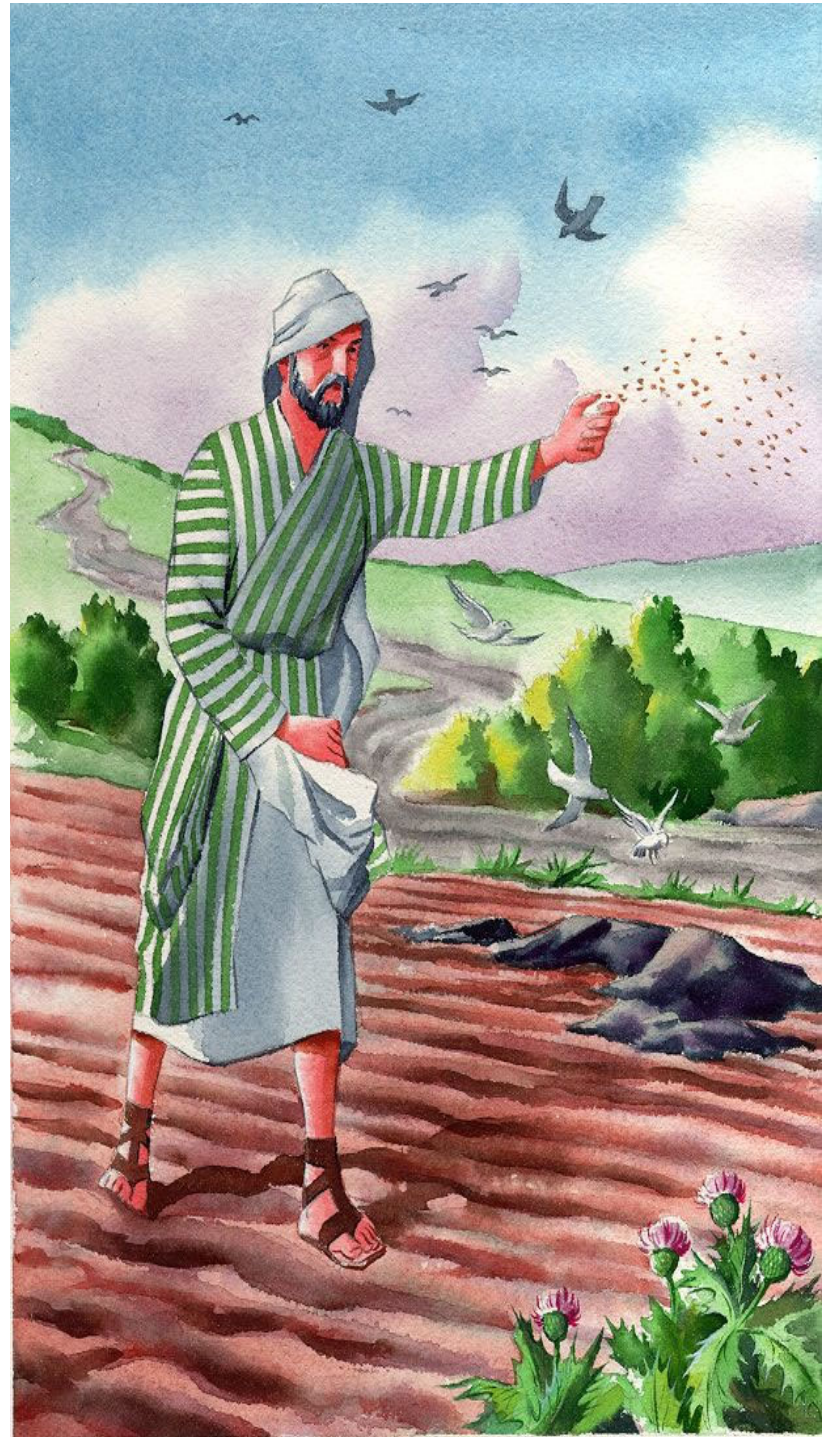
Preschool thru 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

Email: office@stthomasbartow.org
Phone 863-533-8578
Fax 863- 533-5090
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



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 12, 2026



Mass Intentions

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Sat Jul 11 | 5:00 pm | For All Parishioners |
| Sun Jul 12 | 10:30 am | +Francisco Blanco By Maria & Rick Davila |
| Mon Jul 13 | 8:30 am | All Souls in Purgatory By Orlys Lopez |
| Tue Jul 14 | 8:30 am | All Souls in Purgatory By Orlys Lopez |
| Thu Jul 16 | 8:30 am | All Souls in Purgatory |
| Fri Jul 17 | 8:30 am | All Souls in Purgatory By Orlys Lopez |
| Sat Jul 18 | 5:00 pm | For All Parishioners |
| Sun Jul 19 | 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 Gohlman, 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

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|---------------|----------------------------|
| July 1, 2023 | Rev. John (Stan) Murray |
| July 7, 1988 | Rev. Arthur Dunnigan |
| July 10, 2005 | Rev. Joseph Achilles Nolin |
| July 14, 2018 | Msgr. Valentine Sheedy |
| July 15, 2016 | Rev. Frank Mutsko |
| July 18, 1992 | Rev. Paul Couming |
| July 22, 2017 | Rev. Felix Baños |
| July 26, 2022 | Rev. Francis X.J. Smith |



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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LECTORS | EMHC |
| 7/11-5:00 pm | |
| Ruth Palmer Barbara Van Orsdale | Doug Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer |
| 7/12-10:30 am | |
| Martha Laurent Evelyn Rivera | George Cherry Martha Laurent |
| 7/18-5:00 pm | |
| Ann Spencer Ann Slocum | Ann Slocum Pat Lowery |
| 7/19-10:30 am | |
| Unique Gonzalez Alina Gutierrez | Theresa Cherry Maureen Leckie |

Saint Thomas Collection

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|------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 6/28 | Regular | \$3725.00 |
| | Maintenance | 25.00 |
| | Diocesan | 674.00 |
| | Donations for Insurance | 650.00 |

Saint Elizabeth Collection

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|------|---------|-------|
| 6/28 | Regular | 20.00 |
|------|---------|-------|

SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection will be for Catholic University of America.

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

Religious Education



Registration for CCD will be before and after Mass in the school

**July 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th
August 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th**

No registration after **August 9th**

The first day of class will be **August 16th**

TO KEEP UP MY PRAYER LIFE

There is a difficult balance to maintain in the spiritual life between the daily discipline of our prayer and learning to love the Lord in our prayer with heart, mind and soul. Nothing brings this into starker relief than times of transition, such as when we travel, go on vacation or move residences. Anything that takes us out of our routine can stress what normally feels like a seamless rhythm of prayer, revealing the tension between discipline and devotion.

The admonition from St. Paul to “pray without ceasing” is an invitation to maintain a consistent relationship of dialogue with God, but this call to unceasing prayer is not as much about discipline as it is about a disposition of the heart. In fact, Christ underlines the importance of this approach to prayer in the Gospel of Luke, encouraging his disciples that they ought “to pray always and not to lose heart.” We can be assiduous in our discipline of prayer, but unless we pray with all of our heart, mind and soul, we risk developing a temperament akin to what Christ corrected in the Pharisees. In Matthew’s Gospel, Christ is adamant that those who live according to the covenant but are not transformed by fidelity to it are like “whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth.”

A surge of the heart’

For this reason, vacations, travels and other disruptions to our habit of prayer can actually reveal how much growth is still needed in our spiritual life. To be sure, a habit of prayer is a necessary first step in the spiritual life. But our prayer should be that which leads us into a deeper transformation of the heart — not something that we have to do, but something which we earnestly desire. As St. Thérèse of Lisieux famously wrote: “For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”

Think of the different ways we react when we receive a call and look at the caller ID. Depending on who is calling, we might be enthusiastic about answering the phone or grumble under our breath. For one, it is a joy to

unite in conversation; for another, it can be laborious and frustrating. Our prayer life on vacation should be like answering a call from a beloved friend, one marked by joy, not obligation.

Consider a Morning Offering

To cultivate this, root each day with a simple Morning Offering, dedicating your travels to God with something as simple as: “Lord, I offer you today the joys and challenges of this day.” As you navigate your day, allow creation and those around you to remind you of God, taking the time to offer him moments of praise and thanksgiving. St. Augustine tells us that our desire precedes our prayer; whenever distractions arise either from long days of travel or even difficult family members, trust that God honors even the most imperfect efforts. Learn to be attentive to the movements of your heart and do not be afraid of taking small moments — of gratitude, praise or even silence — to remain mindful of the Lord’s presence in your life. As you journey, may your prayer echo St. Thérèse’s “joy of the heart” in each moment of your day.



HOLY LITURGY

At the general audience on May 27, Pope Leo XIV urged priests to respect the “norms of the liturgy” and not to make changes to the Mass “on their own initiative,” in order to avoid confusing the faithful.

“I encourage all priests to respect the texts and norms of the liturgy with openness, humility, trust in God’s greatness and with sincere fidelity to ecclesial communion,” the Pope said.

The Second Vatican Council “affirmed that legitimate progress in the liturgy must also preserve sound tradition, and that certain elements of the liturgy can never change because they are divinely instituted,” he said.