

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 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

Email: office@stthomasbartow.org

Phone 863-533-8578

Fax 863- 533-5090

www.stthomasbartow.org

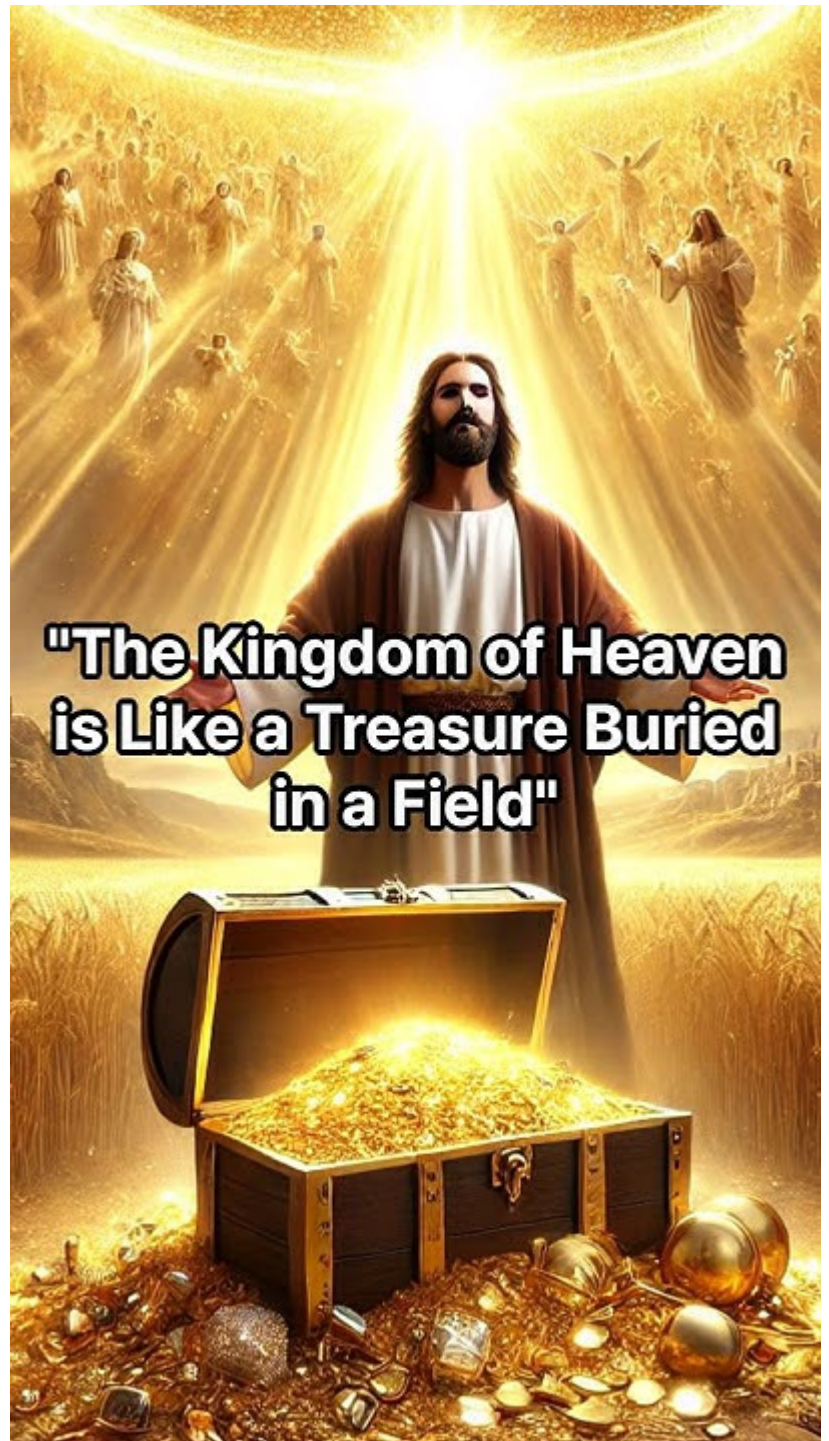
NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830

Diocese of Orlando



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 26, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Jul 25	5:00 pm	All Souls in Purgatory By Orlys Lopez
Sun Jul 26	10:30 am	For All Parishioners
Mon Jul 27	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory By Orlys Lopez
Tue Jul 28	8:30 am	Martha Henley By Denise Bohde
Thu Jul 30	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Jul 31	8:30 am	+Jack Lowery
Sat Aug 1	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Aug 1	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Aug 2	10:30 am	+Francisco Lopez By Ivette Henderson

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, Reagan H., 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

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

The prayer group meets on Thursday from 9:00 am until 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

LECTORS	EMHC
725-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Ryan Curtis	Ann Slocum Doug Van Orsdale
7/26-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Pattie Scott Maria Davila
8/1-5:00 pm	
Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan	Ann Slocum Doug Van Orsdale
8/2-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Rick Davila	Evelyn Rivera George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

7/12	Regular	\$1708.00
	Maintenance	308.00
	Insurance	50.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

7/12	Regular	640.00
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COME TO PRAY

August 1 First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.

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**

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped with Summer Fun with Jesus. The children had a great time learning about Jesus.

Bible Study Sunday Nights at 6:00 pm



GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE HIS WILL CRYSTAL CLEAR

Christ does not often reveal himself to us in lightning flashes or extraordinary circumstances. Instead he leaves us free to pray, reflect and follow God's will through our daily responsibilities. That's hard to accept. When I discerned my vocation, I wanted clear direction from the Lord. I wanted absolute certainty, but I soon discovered discernment is all about surrender.

As a young woman, I was anxious to know the Lord's will for my life. I wanted to choose the path he marked out for me; I just didn't know how to hear his call. I prayed, but I didn't experience a major conversion or inspiration. For me, the call was a slow, steady movement to recognize the "still small voice" that Elijah experienced on the mountain as he waited for the Lord (1 Kgs 19:12). There were no absolute certainties, only a prayer of surrender.

I was a media and technology lover planning a career path in computer science. Even though I knew about many different orders of religious sisters, the consecrated life was far from my mind. That is, until I met the Daughters of St. Paul.

Surrender to Christ

The first time I visited the sisters at their Pauline Books and Media center in St. Louis, they brought me into the chapel. It was a simply decorated sacred space with the tabernacle in the center and statues of Mary and St. Paul on either side. I was struck by the words near the tabernacle: "Do not be afraid; I am with you. From here I want to enlighten. Be sorry for sins." Those words reassured me, even though I didn't understand the deeper meaning behind them. A vocational choice is frightening because, like any choice, you must leave behind the thousand other possibilities and put your whole self behind one decision without absolute certainty.

I later came to find out that those words were spoken by Jesus to Blessed James Alberione, the founder of the Pauline family. A priest of Northern Italy, Father Alberione began a new charism in the Church in 1914 by founding a congregation of Pauline priests and brothers and then an order of religious sisters, the

Daughters of St. Paul, who would use media technologies to communicate the Gospel to the world. He later founded seven other religious institutes and a lay association. Long before most people in the Church, Alberione saw communication technologies as "gifts of God." He was a true media apostle who paved the way for the Church to be an evangelizing presence in the media culture. That is something I could understand and relate to.

Only nine years after he began his new religious family, Father Alberione contracted a serious illness. He was just beginning his mission and did not want to leave his fledgling congregations and media apostolate at such a crucial time of development. He realized that there are no absolute certainties. He surrendered to the Lord and prepared himself for death.

In a dream, Jesus appeared to Father Alberione and uttered the words, "Do not be afraid; I am with you." Then, from the tabernacle, Jesus continued, "From here I want to enlighten. Be sorry for sins." At that moment, Alberione was completely cured of his illness. The experience so convinced him that the Lord willed the Pauline family and its mission into existence that he had those words placed in every Pauline chapel around the world. His surrender to Christ became a Pauline legacy.

Pursue the mystery

Nearly 70 years later, I found those words challenging me to abandon my quest for absolute certainty in my vocational journey and surrender to the Lord. I tried to avoid the call, but a recurring thought that religious life was the way I would find the greatest peace and happiness persisted. I felt the desire to use my love of media to proclaim Christ as a consecrated religious.

There is no absolute certainty in discerning a vocational call. If we had certainty, we wouldn't keep pursuing the mystery of God present in the silence and stillness. That is where the will of God is found. Yes, Christ calls us in significant moments such as a vocational choice. But most of life is made up of small things, the seemingly insignificant everyday experiences, encounters and situations.

Sister Nancy Usselman