



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 19, 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 was the priest who could predict hurricanes? Did you know that Fr. Benito Viñes, a priest in Cuba, helped predict hurricanes in the 19th century before computers, satellites, and radar could forecast severe weather?



Fr. Benito Viñes wasn't just another priest. Born in Spain in 1837, he became a Jesuit priest and was sent to Havana, Cuba in 1870 to oversee the Meteorological Observatory at El Colegio Belén. Fr. Viñes was horrified by the devastation that hurricanes caused in Cuba, and wanted to figure out how to predict these coming disasters.

Fr. Viñes made incredible discoveries at the observatory. He spent countless hours observing the atmosphere. When a storm would come, he made weather observations every hour from 4 AM to 10 PM. After each storm, he would find areas in which the storm caused wreckage and study the aftermath to determine the storm's strength and direction. Through these observations, Fr. Viñes became an expert in hurricane detection. He noted how patterns of clouds and winds ahead of a storm could be used to predict a future hurricane and its potential movements. Based on where the clouds were moving, Fr. Vines could say where the hurricane was going and where it would make a northward turn.

Fr. Viñes's discoveries saved many Cuban lives. In 1875, his first forecast was published in a local newspaper in Havana. He predicted an intense hurricane that ended up ravaging southern Cuba's coast. Because of his forecast, many Cubans were able to prepare for the storm and preserve their lives.

The following year, Fr. Viñes predicted another major hurricane and, in the 1880s, his forecasts were being regularly published to every island in the Caribbean. Cubans began calling him the "Hurricane Priest." He went on to establish a network of meteorological stations throughout the Caribbean and is considered the founder of tropical meteorology.

Despite his achievements, Fr. Viñes remained humble, committed to serving God through his talents. He once said, "I am desirous only of being of service...nor do I wish for any other recompense after that which I hope for from God, other than to be of use to my brethren and to do my little share for the advancement of science and the good of humanity."