

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
evecoult@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

Jessica Witmer 863-602-3837

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*



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Aug 8	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Aug 9	10:30 am	+Jose' Pedroza By Maria & Rick Davila
Mon Aug 10	8:30 am	Anna Morton By Denise Bohde
Tue Aug 11	8:30 am	Luke Morton By Denise Bohde
Thu Aug 13	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Aug 14	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Sat Aug 15	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Aug 16	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, 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

Aug 3, 2023 Rev. Felicito Baybay
Aug 8, 2008 Rev. Sean Shine
Aug 26, 1993 Rev. Bronis Benesevich
Aug 28, 2013 Rev. Michael J. Hannon
Aug 28, 2022 Rev. Donald Mainardi



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

August 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th

No registration after **August 9th**

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

LECTORS	EMHC
8/8-5:00 pm	
Barbara Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer	Doug Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer
8/9-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Caroline Picart	Pattie Scott Maria Davila
8/15-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Susan DeNeve
8/16-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Alina Gutierrez	George Cherry Maureen Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

7/26 Regular \$2046.00
Maintenance 315.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

7/26 Regular 140.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection is a Diocesan Collection for Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa and The Church in Latin America.

CHAPEL DEDICATION

Bishop John Noonan will dedicate our new Adoration Chapel on Saturday, **August 15th** after the 5:00 pm Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Each time we adore Christ in the Eucharist, our hearts will be united in him. Adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the source of eternal life. Study, work and love according to the example of Jesus, the good Teacher who always walks beside us."

Pope Leo XIV

Prayer can truly change your life, for it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart towards the Lord. If we look only at ourselves, with our own limitations and sins, we quickly give way to sadness and discouragement. But if we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope.

St. John Paul II

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN'S GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED

Most of us, most of the time, struggle to know what our life is really about. Am I living correctly? Am I fulfilling my mission? What is my calling? What is my calling now? What is the Lord's will for me? Do I really even know how to interpret the Lord's will?

While there are certainly plenty of occasions when our dereliction in faith and our own sinfulness lead us into confusion and even a sense of purposelessness, it is also true that struggling and straining to live according to the Lord's call for us are part and parcel of the Christian life. We are not our own authors; we do not have control over the story we are in or the role we are meant to play. And yet, even when we are least certain and our vision is most clouded, we are not powerless. We can remember, we can believe, we can trust, and we can offer.

In his "Meditations on Christian Doctrine," St. John Henry Newman expressed the drama of seeking after our purpose in the Lord. He does not proclaim pristine knowledge, nor does he herald an end to uncertainty in this life. What he meditates on is God's providence, our dependence, and the way God offers himself to us and we to him.

What follows are four sections from Newman's meditation, with my own commentary after each part. I offer these as spiritual reflections for anyone who struggles to know his purpose in life.

Called by name

God was all-complete, all-blessed in Himself; but it was His will to create a world for His glory. He is Almighty, and might have done all things Himself, but it has been His will to bring about His purposes by the beings He has created. We are all created to His glory — we are created to do His will. I am created to do something or to be something for which no one else is created; I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world, which no one else has; whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by man, God knows me and calls me by my name.

Our existence proclaims God's providence. We need not be, yet we are because God has willed us to be. And the meaning of our existence is to

participate in bringing about his will, to further his purposes, though he does not need us in order to bring about what he intends. The point is that he chooses us, in an absolute way. He chooses each of us, not in the sense of one option among other possible options; rather, his choice for us is what brings us into existence in the first place. We are each possible because he has already chosen. This is the foundation of our purpose in this world: God's choice comes first.

Given a mission

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission — I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his — if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

God's election of each one of us is anything but generic and vague. His choice for us is unfathomably personal. To each, he intends some "definite service," a way of serving him in the here and now, in the concrete circumstances of our time and place, with our specific gifts and limitations, with the particular persons among whom we are placed. Discerning exactly what that calling is for each of us is challenging and ultimately only ever partial. We do not fully see what we are made for. Rather, we trust that God knows his intention for us. Our part is to remain faithful to his commandments and strive to serve him as best we know how.

(To be continued next week)



Please pray for our schools, teachers, and students as they begin a new school year.