



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 16, 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

Sunnyside-up: the connection between eggs, St. Clare, and clear skies. A traditional way of praying for good weather involves offering eggs to a community of Poor Clares, the religious order founded by St. Clare of Assisi. But what do eggs have to do with sunny days?

There is a tradition in which a faithful soul hoping for good weather on, say, her wedding day, could make a trip to the nearest community of Poor Clares. She would present a gift of eggs, along with a petition to St. Clare for clear skies, and the sisters would send up their own prayers in exchange for the kind offering.

The exact origins of the egg tradition are uncertain and details can vary, but here's the background: St. Clare of Assisi was a young Italian noblewoman who left all her wealth to follow in the footsteps of her friend and mentor, St. Francis of Assisi. She founded the Second Order of the Franciscans, known as the Poor Clares, who followed the Franciscan way of poverty and penance. The connection to good weather might have to do with her name, which means "light" or "clear." This makes her a fitting saint to invoke if you are looking for clear skies or interior light!



The gift of eggs, specifically, has various possible origins. For one thing, eggs are a useful staple for a religious community that depends on donations to survive. Interestingly, the white of the egg is known as the *clara* in Spanish. So eggs would make sense as a gift to the daughters of Santa Clara.

One monastery in which this is a particularly popular tradition is the Real Monasterio de Sta. Clara de Manila in Quezon City, Philippines, which traces its history all the way back to 1621. Founded by Servant of God Mother Jerónima de la Asunción, a Poor Clare from Spain, the monastery survived all the way into the 20th century before suffering the heavy bombing of the Battle of Manila in World War II. The community later rebuilt the monastery in Quezon City. Today you can see engaged couples and other weather-petitioners bringing the community gifts of eggs, wrapped in brightly-colored cellophane packaging, to ask for prayers to their holy patroness for a bright, clear day.