



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 9, 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

What courageous Cardinal spent 8 years in solitary confinement? Despite arrest, torture, and imprisonment, Cardinal József Mindszenty fought fearlessly for the truth. Now known as a symbol of Christian and national resistance to Communism, Cardinal József Mindszenty was once considered a criminal, convicted of treason and serving life imprisonment.

Ordained a priest on the Feast of the Sacred Heart in 1915, József Mindszenty began his vocation during the dangerous spread of socialism and communism throughout Eastern Europe. Despite the increased danger in doing so, he never hesitated to speak out against communism. Within the first few years of his priesthood, he was arrested several times by Hungarian authorities for his criticisms of communism. During the Second World War, Mindszenty was also a vocal critic of Nazism and Hungary's ultranationalist group, Arrow Cross, while publicly supporting the Jewish community.

Shortly after being appointed a cardinal in 1945, the Hungarian government banned religious orders and ordered that Hungary's 4,813 Catholic schools be nationalized. Although the government was already putting aggressive pressure on Mindszenty, he bravely continued to speak out against these authoritarian laws. Repeatedly he was threatened and silenced, but he would not cower nor turn a blind eye to the truth. Under the threat of arrest, he continued to speak out, saying, "Communism is an atheistic ideology: hence by its very nature it is opposed to the spirit of the Church."

Cardinal Mindszenty was arrested on December 26th, 1948. He was charged with treason and conspiracy. Despite his innocence, after days of torture where he was starved, beaten, and humiliated, he was coerced into a false confession. After a show trial, Cardinal Mindszenty was sentenced to life in prison. He spent the next several years in jail, suffering from physical and psychological torture, and was subjected to 8 years in solitary confinement. However, during the Hungarian uprising of 1956, he was freed.



Cardinal Mindszenty
in 1974

His short-lived freedom was interrupted as the Communists rapidly regained control, causing him to seek refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Budapest. As the Communist government reinstated itself and continued to rule authoritatively, Cardinal Mindszenty was forced to live in that singular building for the next 15 years, safe from the threats of his government, but unable to live a free life. He was 79 years old when he was able to leave the embassy, dying a few years later in 1975.