

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: Ft. Meade 8:00 am

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
evecoulter@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

**Adoration Chapel will be
open after Mass on
Saturday and Sunday**

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 12	5:00 pm	Sr. Zofia
Sun Sep 13	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 13	10:30 am	+Steve Pedroza By Maria & Rick Davila
Mon Sep 14	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory By Orly Lopez
Tue Sep 15	8:30 am	+Chuck Spencer By Kathleen Morris
Thu Sep 17	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Sep 18	8:30 am	
Sat Sep 19	5:00 pm	+Leon LaClair By Family
Sun Sep 20	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 20	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, Sr. Zofia, Richie Southwell, Chuck Spencer, Murphy Stidham, Rita Taylor, Laura Webb

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests

Sep 14, 2017 Msgr. Patrick Caverly
Sep 19, 2016 Very Rev. John M. McCormick
Sep 23, 1986 Rev. Louis Bamundo
Sep 27, 1995 Rev. Charles Schneider



LECTORS	EMHC
9/12-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Barbara Van Orsdale	Doug Van Orsdale Ruth Palmer
9/13-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Rick Davila	George Cherry Martha Laurent
9/19-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Ann Slocum	Ann Slocum Pat Lowery
9/20-10:30 am	
Unique Gonzalez Alina Gutierrez	Martha Laurent Maureen Leckie

Saint Thomas Collection

8/30 Regular \$1341.00
Maintenance 255.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

8/30 Regular 140.00

Diocesan Collection-September 13th Priest Retirement and Priest Care

"The Church is the rightful home of Sacred Scripture," Pope Leo began. "Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible arose from the people of God, and is destined for the people of God. In the Christian community it has, so to speak, its *habitat*: indeed, in the life and the faith of the Church it finds the space where it can reveal its meaning and manifest its power."

Pope Leo XIV

A fulfilled life is one lived with the quiet certainty of purpose. Happiness is not found in comfort but in the courage to walk the path that God set before me, no matter how difficult. It is knowing I follow the narrow road toward union with Him, seeking only His will – fully aware that his will for His own Son was the Cross.

If God didn't choose you for what you were hoping for, it is not because you were over looked, it is because He has something different, and perhaps even better, in store for you.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

When Mother Teresa's cause for canonization was opened, just two years after her death in 1997, documents were found in the archives containing her accounts of her conversations with and visions of Jesus before she formed the Missionaries of Charity. It wasn't until after her death, for the vast majority of people, that this part of Mother Teresa's spiritual life was uncovered.

During a period lasting from Sept. 10, 1946 to Dec. 3, 1947, Mother Teresa had ongoing communication with Jesus through words and visions. This all happened while she was a missionary sister in the Irish order of the Sisters of Loreto, teaching at St. Mary's school in Calcutta.

Mother Teresa wrote that one day at Holy Communion, she heard Jesus say, "I want Indian nuns, victims of my love, who would be Mary and Martha, who would be so united to me as to radiate my love on souls."

It was through these communications of the Eucharistic Jesus that Mother Teresa received her directions for forming her congregation of the Missionaries of Charity. Jesus told her what sort of nuns he wanted her order to be filled with: "I want free nuns covered with the poverty of the Cross. I want obedient nuns covered with the obedience of the Cross. I want full-of-love nuns covered with the charity of the Cross."

Then Jesus asked her: "Would you refuse to do this for me? I cannot go alone to the poor people, you carry me with you into them. She was so united with Jesus that she was able to radiate not her love, but Jesus' love through her, and with a human expression.

People around the world know about Mother Teresa's visible acts of charity toward the poor and sick in the slums of Calcutta, but the interior life of Mother is not known to people.

Mother Teresa's motto, and the motto of her congregation, was the words of Jesus, "I thirst." And that they could quench the thirst of Jesus by bringing souls to him. And in every breathing, each sigh, each act of mind, shall be an act of love divine. That was her daily prayer. That was what was motivating her and all the sacrifices, even until that age of 87, and without resting.

Mother Teresa never rested from her work during her life on earth, and she continues to "work" for souls from heaven. "When I die and go home to God, I can bring more souls to God. I'm not going to sleep in heaven, but I'm going to work harder in another form," she said at one point.

MOTHER TERESA WAS HEROIC-BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS YOU MAY THINK

There are many things about Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta that could be called heroic – her tireless service to the world's most rejected and her courageous witness to millions of what it is to live the Gospel, just to name a couple.

One of the first steps in declaring someone a saint is to determine their heroic virtue. Mother Teresa's entire life was lived heroically. Although the Albanian nun is always seen beaming and smiling brightly in photos, she experienced a profound internal desolation during which she felt silence from God, who seemed distant. In a letter to her spiritual director in 1957, Mother Teresa wrote that "I call, I cling, I want, and there is no one to answer. Where I try to raise my thoughts to heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives and hurt my very soul. I am told God lives in me – and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul," she said.

Mother Teresa had prayed fervently to share in Jesus' suffering, and many, including her spiritual director, believed her feelings of rejection and abandonment to be a mirror of Christ's own experience of loneliness and desolation during his Passion and death.

Because of the depth and duration of Mother Teresa's spiritual desert, many have hailed her as a great mystic when it comes to topic of spiritual darkness, a great mystic, but also very concrete, very down to earth. Very spiritual, but also observant and active in the lives of others.

