

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
evecoultter@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**

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*



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 26	5:00 pm	+Chuck Spencer By Carol Polkowski
Sun Sep 27	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 27	10:30 am	+Cathy Simoneau By Kay LaClair
Mon Sep 28	8:30 am	+Ozelle & +Missouri Johnson By Gerald Johnson
Tue Sep 29	8:30 am	+Francisco Lopez By Ivette Hernandez
Thu Oct 1	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Oct 2	8:30 am	Sr. Zofia
Sat Oct 3	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Oct 3	5:00 pm	In Thanksgiving By Carol Marz
Sun Oct 4	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Oct 4	10:30 am	

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, 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

**Teen Life Catholic Program for
Highschoolers
Sundays 5:00-6:00 PM**

LECTORS	EMHC
9/26-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Ryan Curtis	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
9/27-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Pattie Scott Maria Davila
10/3-5:00 pm	
Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
10/4-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Rick Davila	Evelyn Rivera Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

9/13	Regular	\$1734.00
	Maintenance	150.00
	Diocesan	646.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

9/13	Regular	212.00
	Diocesan	161.00

COME TO PRAY

October 1 First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

October 2 First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

October 3 First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstration.



Rummage Sale items are being accepted at this time.

**Presale for Parishioners
October 3, October 4,
October 10 and October 11 after Mass
Opened to Public
October 16th 8 am – 2 pm
October 17th 8 am - Noon**

HOLY DISCIPLE AND CHURCH- CHANGING APOSTLE

(Continued from last week)

Attached to Christ the vine, Archbishop Sheen the branch bore abundant fruit. He burst with the desire to help others come to know and love the Savior, too.

He loved to teach the faith so that others might have confidence to believe and live it. He dedicated 25 years of his life to teaching theology and philosophy, and forming young Catholics and future scholars, at the Catholic University of America. He spent 20 years traveling from DC to New York to record radio programs explaining the faith to 4 million people at a time. On television, to an audience of 30 million each week of Catholics, Protestants, Jews and nonbelievers, he taught why *Life is Worth Living*, using everything he could to open people to a relationship with God: physics, biology, psychology, history, literature, philosophy, art and culture, fear and anxiety, work, family, friendship. His influence was one of the greatest factors in breaking down the anti-Catholic prejudice that was still then a sad feature of American life.

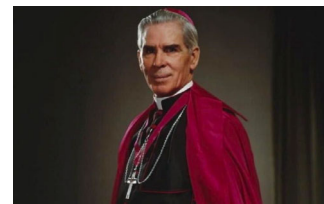
Appointed national director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in the United States, he poured all his gifts and energy into his two fundamental tasks: promoting a missionary identity and spirituality among American Catholics and helping to raise money for the missions of the Church. He traveled to the missions, to bring attention to them and get to know their concrete needs better. He spoke about the missions during the Second Vatican Council and served on the committee that produced [*Ad Gentes*](#), the Council's document on the missionary activity of the Church.

He didn't think he was a saint, but he wanted to be and never gave up trying. He wrote in his autobiography, "God will judge me ... by how much I reflected Him, not only in work but in word and life."

New York in 1979, embraced him and expressed appreciation for the way he had done so: "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church!"

As the Church now focuses on Fulton Sheen's holiness in anticipation of his beatification (September 24th) and beyond, Archbishop Sheen, ever the missionary, would hope that it would bring attention not to him but to the One who made him holy. "The only argument that is left to convince others," he said in the 1970s, "is holiness. The world has heard every other argument, and it is ready to reject them, all except one: holiness."

Holiness — his reflection in work, word and life of the Lord Jesus — is the most eloquent word the mellifluous Sheen ever preached. And it is the word that, happily, will echo now in the liturgy and memory of the Church until the end of time.



Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, one of America's greatest preachers and television and radio personalities, is poised to be beatified on Thursday, September 24, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri.

VISIT TO FRANCE

Pope Leo XIV's visit to France, scheduled for Sept. 25-28, comes at what appears to be a time of grace for a national Church still recovering from decades marked by decline. It coincides, in fact, with the surge in the number of catechumens in the country since 2022.

The number of people entering the Catholic Church has been on the rise over the last decade, with more than 13,000 people baptized across France this Easter, a 28% increase compared to 2025. Increases ranging from 10% to 30% have been recorded over the past four years.

For many newcomers, Father de la Martinière explained, the Church remains an unknown territory — a world where they think they need to know a secret password to enter. He specifically mentioned the recent story of a young woman who, inspired by her own grandmother's example of faith, had called a parish to ask where to start.