

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

Religious Education

Jessica Witmer 863-602-3837

Religious Formation – Every Sunday
Sept thru May

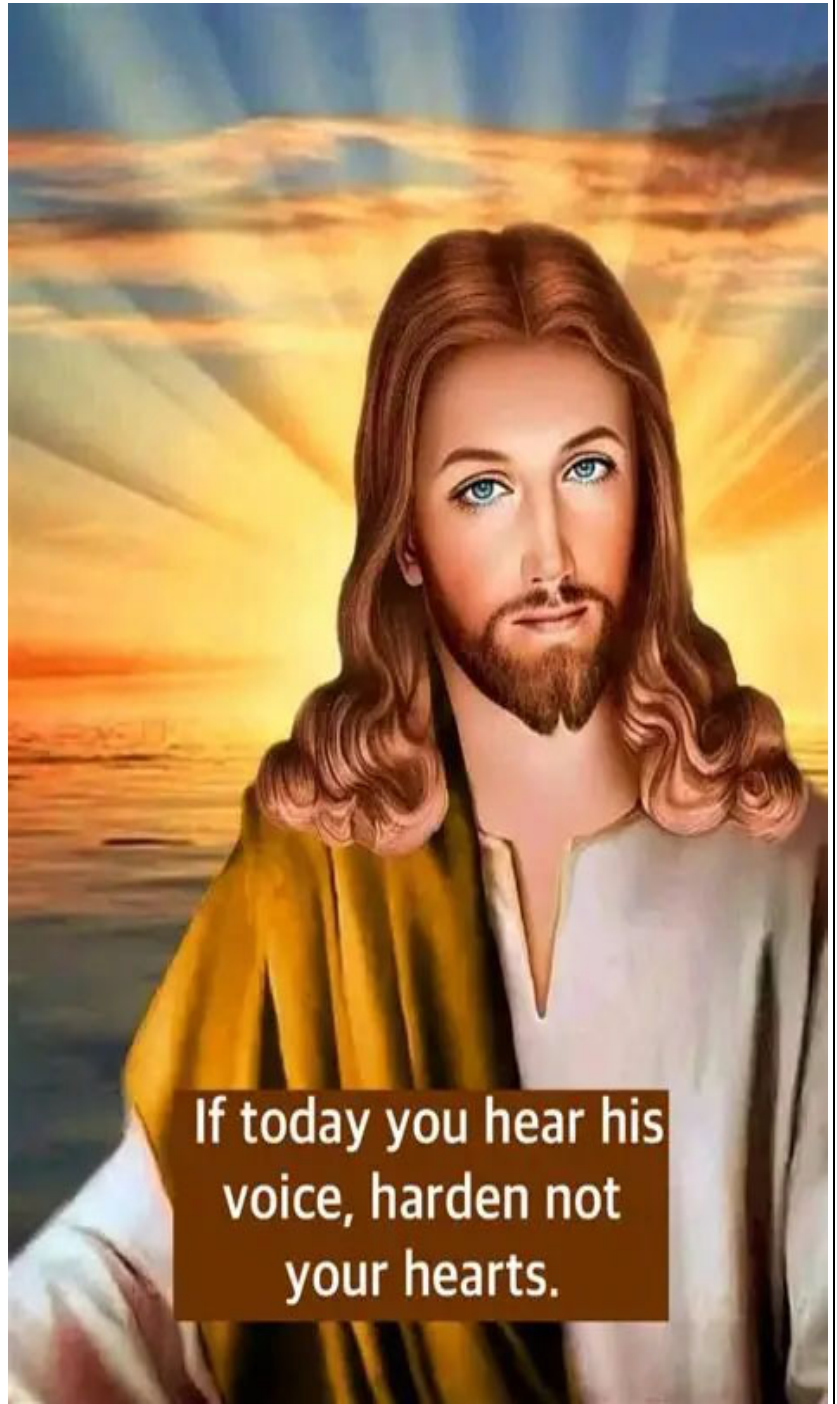
Preschool thru 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

Email: office@stthomasbartow.org
Phone 863-533-8578
Fax 863- 533-5090
www.stthomasbartow.org

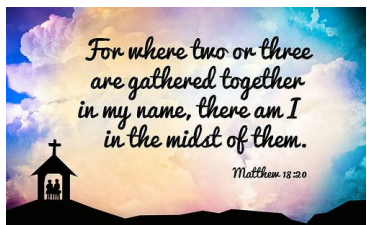
NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830
Diocese of Orlando



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Sep 5	5:00 pm	+Mirka Piec
Sun Sep 6	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Sep 6	10:30 am	Pat Barber By Susan Barabas
Mon Sep 7	8:30 am	Pat Barber By Susan Barabas
Tue Sep 8	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Thu Sep 10	8:30 am	No Daily Mass
Fri Sep 11	8:30 am	Nolan Woodin By Susan Barabas
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

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

The real peacemakers are those who confront evil, who bear the cost of speaking when silence is easier, who serve sacrificially, who fight not with hatred but with conviction.

LECTORS	EMHC
9/5-5:00 pm	
Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
9/6-10:30 am	
Caroline Picart Evelyn Rivera	Evelyn Rivera Maria Davila
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

Saint Thomas Collection

8/23	Regular	\$4702.00
	Maintenance	270.00
	Diocesan	1097.00
	CCD	550.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

8/23	Regular	140.00
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Diocesan Collection-September 13th Priest Retirement and Priest Care



One Nation Under God is not a slogan—it's an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ. It's a call to build unity through prayer, and to let Jesus, present in the Eucharist, renew and heal the heart of our country, one soul at a time.



Labor Day is a chance to honor the sacredness of work, defend workers' rights, and live out the Gospel call to serve with dignity and purpose.

SAN GERARDO HOSPITAL

(Continued from last week)

A Mission of Hope

The parish church inside of the hospital contains a relic of its 12th-century patron, as well as relics of Carlo Acutis and Louis and Zélie Martin.

Father Brena often uses the relics in his ministry at the hospital as he prays with grieving families and offers the sacraments to the sick.

"I hope this can help so many people to believe and hope in the Lord, who is close to those who suffer," he said.

Sporting a white lab coat over his clerical color, the chaplain said that he considers his work in the hospital as a "mission." He baptizes babies who die within hours of being born, spends time with cancer patients, and accompanies the elderly as they near the end of life, bringing the gifts of the Eucharist, confession, holy oils for the anointing of the sick, and intercessory prayers for healing.

Much of his ministry consists of listening to people's lives and their stories. He also ministers to hospital staff who need spiritual support while witnessing so much suffering, death and loss. The chaplain encourages the people who enter the hospital chapel to pray, as Carlo Acutis did, in front of the tabernacle and to meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

The saints connected with the hospital also assist in his ministry. Father Brena shared the story of a couple whose young son, Pietro Carlo, was hospitalized with a serious leg infection. They prayed daily for Acutis' intercession, keeping his image at the child's bedside, and asked to receive Communion daily in imitation of Carlo. Doctors had expected a three-month stay. He recovered in two, "thanks to Carlo," the chaplain added.

"No one wants to suffer," Father Brena said. "But welcoming and accepting suffering means, for a Catholic, to unite it with the cross of Jesus. ... That cross becomes lighter and less heavy when offered to the cross of Jesus."

The priest often reminds patients, "Death is not the end of everything, but the fulfillment of life." Carlo Acutis, he said, teaches us that the value

of life is not in years lived, but in how we live each day with grace.

For the soon-to-be St. Carlo Acutis, who is known for calling the Eucharist "my highway to heaven," San Gerardo Hospital was the final stop on the road to eternity. The canonization of the 15-year-old boy who died of cancer carries a lasting message to the families whose loved ones are being treated at that hospital: that God can bring good out of even the worst tragedies.

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On September 7, 2025, Carlo Acutis was canonized by Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City.

SHORT BUT POWERFUL TESTIMONY

While in college, I studied in the University of Kansas's Integrated Humanities Program, a well-known classical great books program. I discovered truth and goodness and beauty for the very first time in my life, much better than any Grateful Dead concert. And I discovered the Catholic Church in Jesus Christ, who is truth, goodness, and beauty incarnate. I'd never been baptized. During my junior year, I converted to the Catholic Church. On Dec. 6, 1975 was baptized and confirmed and received my first Holy Communion. As I began looking at the world through a Catholic lens, I saw how everything was beautifully connected and integrated into a whole. How everything had meaning and purpose.

In 1980, he entered seminary for the Diocese of Wichita. On May 18, 1985, James Conley was ordained a priest. On April 10, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI announced the appointment of Rev. James D. Conley as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Denver. On Sept. 14, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Conley as the bishop of the Lincoln Diocese in Nebraska where he is at present.

