



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 27, 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

The Catholic Fall Feast you may Have Never Celebrated. September 29 is the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the three Archangels named in Scripture. Historically, however, September 29 was the great feast of St. Michael himself. It was once even a Holy Day of Obligation.

As Christmas comes from “Christ's Mass,” Michaelmas means “Michael's Mass.” And Catholics didn't just go to Mass. They celebrated.

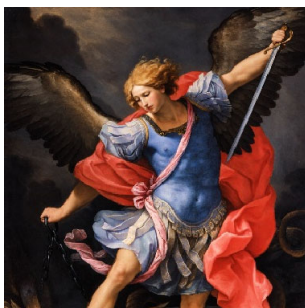
In the British Isles, Michaelmas became associated with the beginning of autumn and the harvest. It was one of the year's traditional “quarter days,” when rents and debts were settled. The feast became so embedded in the culture that some British universities still call their autumn semester “Michaelmas term.”

But the old food traditions are the most fun. Michaelmas was sometimes called “Goose Day,” because farmers traditionally brought their fattened geese to market around the feast. Roast goose became the customary Michaelmas dinner.

Then there are the blackberries. According to an old British legend, when St. Michael cast Satan out of heaven, the devil landed in a blackberry bush. Furious, he spat on the berries. Thus came the warning that blackberries should be eaten by Michaelmas, but never afterward. It was folklore, of course, but it gave Catholics an excellent excuse for blackberry pie or crumble on St. Michael's feast.

You can even put Michaelmas daisies on the table. These purple flowers bloom in late summer and early fall and took their name from the feast that arrives just as the seasons begin to change.

Our Catholic ancestors didn't separate the liturgical calendar from ordinary life quite as easily as we sometimes do. A great feast affected what they prayed, what they ate, what they called the season, and sometimes even what they planted.



St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen