



ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 18, 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

Did you know a mule once knelt before the Holy Eucharist? The story of St. Anthony's mule has been passed down for centuries as a witness to the Catholic faith that Jesus Christ is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the Holy Eucharist.

St. Anthony of Padua is widely known as the patron saint of lost things, but he was also a gifted preacher and a strong defender of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

According to a longstanding tradition, St. Anthony once encountered a man who refused to believe that Christ is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The man challenged the saint to prove the Church's teaching through a public test.

He would keep his mule from eating for three days. Afterward, he would bring the hungry animal into the town square and place food before it. At the same time, St. Anthony would approach carrying the Blessed Sacrament. If the mule turned away from the food and knelt before the Eucharist, the man promised to believe.

St. Anthony accepted the challenge. After three days, a crowd gathered to witness what would happen. Food was placed before the hungry mule, and St. Anthony approached reverently with the Blessed Sacrament. The mule did not eat. Instead, it turned toward St. Anthony, approached the Eucharist, and bent its knees in reverence. Seeing this, the man professed his belief in the Real Presence and was reconciled to the Church.

The story of St. Anthony's mule has been passed down for centuries as a witness to the Catholic faith that Jesus Christ is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the Holy Eucharist. At every Mass, we come before that same Eucharistic Lord. We genuflect before the tabernacle, kneel during the Consecration, and approach the altar to receive Him in Holy Communion. May we always approach and receive with reverence, trust, and faith like St. Anthony!

"This is My Body" And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you'" (Luke 22:19). St. Anthony defended this truth centuries ago, and it remains the truth proclaimed at every Catholic Mass: Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. The next time you enter the church, slow down when you genuflect toward the tabernacle. Make that simple gesture an intentional profession of faith in the Real Presence.