

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***



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Oct 17	5:00 pm	+Chuck Spencer By Mary Lou Young
Sun Oct 18	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Oct 18	10:30 am	+Leon LaClair By Kay & Family
Thu Oct 22	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Oct 23	8:30 am	+Chuck Spencer By Martha & John Laurent
Sat Oct 24	5:00 pm	+Jeanne Amatangelo By Marge Estok
Sun Oct 25	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Oct 25	10:30 am	+Chuck Spencer By Ann Spencer

There will be no daily Mass October 13-21.

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

Oct 3, 1988	Rev. Philip Stegeman
Oct 4, 1978	Rev. Neil Sager
Oct 5, 2015	Rev. Joseph Aiden Nolan
Oct 9, 2019	Rev. Raymond O'Leary
Oct 11, 2010	Msgr. Paul Kamide
Oct 13, 1993	Rev. Louis Dunleavy
Oct 13, 1985	Rev. Bernard L. Hickey
Oct 24, 2019	Rev. Michael Giglio
Oct 26, 2008	Msgr. Matthew Connelly
Oct 27, 2002	Rev. Patrick O'Reilly
Oct 30, 2008	Msgr. Charles A. Bartok

LECTORS	EMHC
10/17-5:00 pm	
Ann Spencer Evelyn Rivera	Evelyn Rivera Susan DeNeve Ruth Palmer
10/18-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Martha Laurent Maureen Leckie George Cherry
10/24-5:00 pm	
Victor Aguirre Ryan Curtis	Doug Van Orsdale Pat Lowery
10/25-10:30 am	
Carrie Brown Caroline Picart	Maria Davila Pattie Scott

Saint Thomas Collection

10/4	Regular	\$3030.00
	Maintenance	363.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

10/4	Regular	1245.00
	Maintenance	25.00

Diocesan Collection-October 17th - 18th Sister Diocese-San Juan de la Maguana

All Souls' Day Envelopes

November 2nd is All Souls' Day. Five Masses will be said for your departed family and friends. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Please return your envelopes by **November 1st**.

LEADING WITH A HEART LIKE MARY'S

Every life is filled with joy (hopefully!) and sorrow. As the mother of Jesus, Mary's life was no exception to this rule. It was also an example of how to rejoice and grieve with — and trust in — the Lord.

We call Mary's heart "Immaculate" and celebrate it with a feast in July. Unlike the happy images of hearts we often see around Valentine's Day, Mary's heart is typically pictured with seven swords piercing it. They represent her seven sorrows and the prediction of Simeon the prophet during the Presentation at the Temple: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself

a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Lk 2:34-35).

Mary’s heart experienced great joy and great sorrow. It shaped the woman she was and the way she mothered her son (and, likely, the apostles as a spiritual mother). Similarly, as leaders (as humans, really), we experience both joy and sorrow, sometimes seemingly on a daily basis. Fortunately, we have the example of Mary’s immaculate, joyful, sorrowful heart. It tells us how to deal with whatever comes our way as leaders, whether we lead in the workplace, in the home or both.

Mary experienced seven major sorrows (*dolors* in Latin) in her life, which Pope Pius VII organized and gave us to pray with in 1815. In fact, the Seven Sorrows Rosary is a Rosary organized around the seven sorrows instead of the traditional mysteries. Notably, however, many of Mary’s sorrows are also mysteries of the Rosary, because the events of her life are inextricably intertwined with the events of her son’s life, which were joyful, luminous, glorious and, yes, sorrowful.

Sorrow No. 1: The prophecy of Simeon

When we receive bad news as leaders, how do we respond? There may be some action we need to take, some people we need to reassure. But Mary shows us the first step: Repeatedly, in the events of Jesus’ childhood, Scripture tells us that she pondered or reflected on them in her heart (cf. Lk 1:29, 2:19, 2:51).

The first thing we should do as leaders when we receive difficult news is to take it to prayer — to reflect on the news, what it means for us and our team or organization, and then ask God for his guidance.

Sorrow No. 2: The flight into Egypt

When St. Joseph received a message in a dream that his family was in danger, he immediately obeyed, packing them up and moving to Egypt during the night (cf. Mt 2:13).

We may not always receive explicit messages from God in a dream, like Joseph did (and, through him, Mary). We are, however, expected to discern God’s will and then follow it. There are many decisions we must make throughout our career, not just for ourselves but on behalf of other people. Fortunately, we know that God

cares about all of it — big and small decisions alike, whether they explicitly relate to our faith life or not. Just as a human parent is always wanting to give advice to their child, God is always wanting us to ask him for help and guidance, no matter what the question. So we pray to know God’s will and obey when we recognize it.

Sorrow No. 3: The loss of Jesus for three days

Anytime I’m in a crowd with my daughter, I hold on tightly to her hand for fear of losing her. And that’s just what happened to Mary and Joseph: They lost Jesus in Jerusalem for three whole days. Their son and the Son of God. Fortunately, at the end of those three days, they experienced the great joy not only of finding Jesus but of finding him mysteriously demonstrating his great wisdom in the temple with the Jewish teachers (Lk 2:41-51).

We can’t always see our happy ending (and, in fact, we may not always experience a happy ending in this lifetime). But, we can always have hope. In fact, God asks us to always have hope. It is “the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1817).

We can certainly have hope that we will meet our business and career goals, and we can ask God for his blessing on those goals. But our ultimate hope should be for God, for heaven — and because that is a goal we can never achieve on our own, that hope will remind us to rely on the Holy Spirit, not on ourselves.

(To be continued next week)

“You know what Our Lady said about the Rosary? That the whole world would change if everybody said it. ... If my Mother says, ‘Say it,’ I’m gonna say it,” Mother Angelica once shared.

