

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

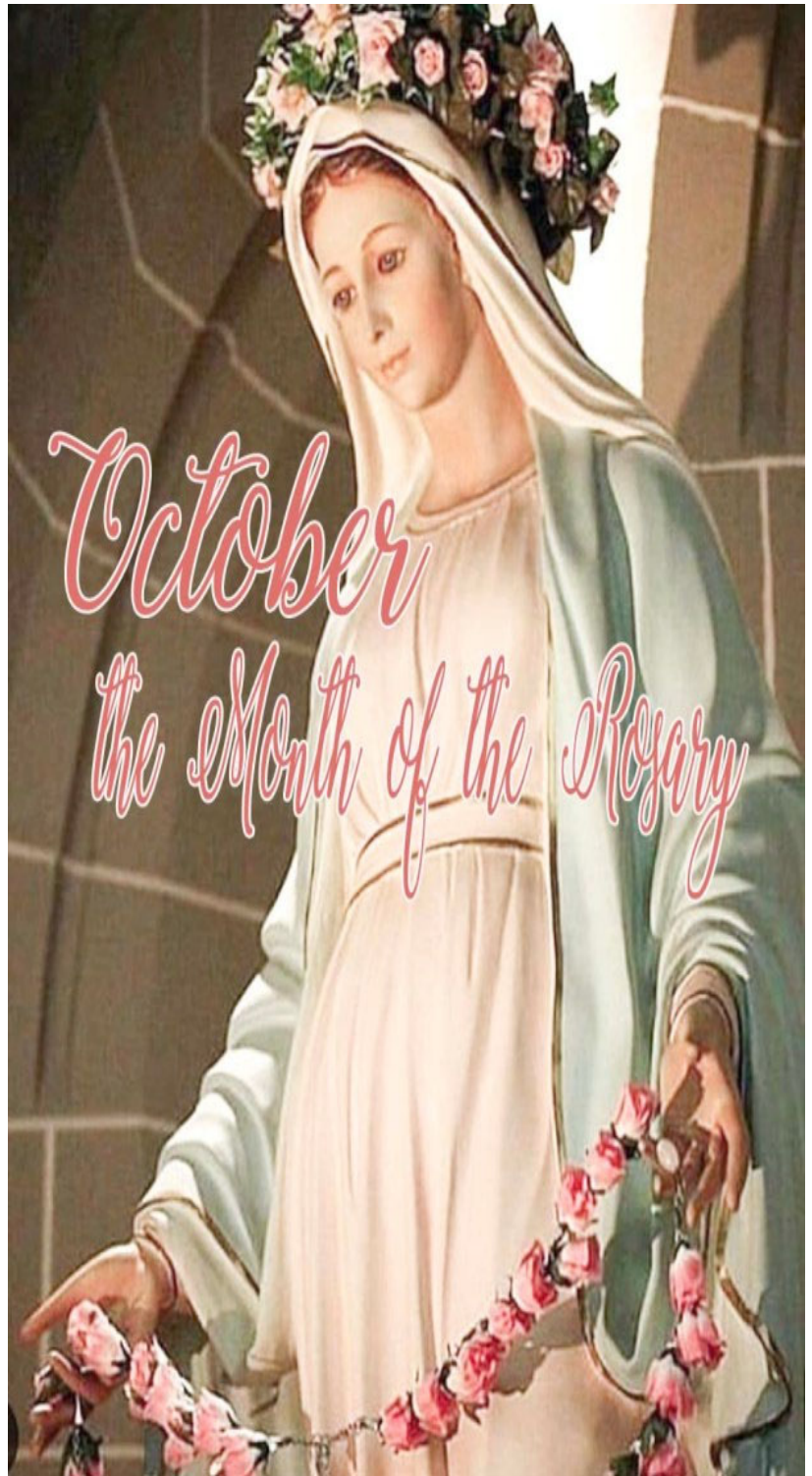
Preschool thru 8th
Sun 9 am + **Mass**

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

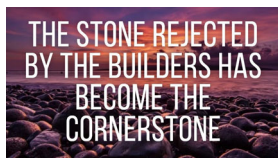
NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

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



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4, 2026



Mass Intentions

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	
Mon Oct 5	8:30 am	
Tue Oct 6	8:30 am	+ Chuck Spencer By Melanie & John Phillipsen
Thu Oct 8	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Oct 9	8:30 am	
Sat Oct 10	5:00 pm	+Chuck Spencer By Mary Lou Young
Sun Oct 11	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Oct 11	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

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
10/3-5:00 pm	
Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan	Angelika Almanzan Luke Almanzan
10/4-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Rick Davila	Evelyn Rivera Maria Davila
10/10-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Ruth Palmer	Ann Slocum Ruth Palmer
10/11-10:30 am	
Martha Laurent Confirmandi	Pattie Scott George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

9/20	Regular	\$1862.00
	Maintenance	296.00
	Diocesan	30.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

9/20	Regular	462.00
	Maintenance	46.00
	Diocesan	150.00

The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to join them in the Adoration Chapel at 4:00 pm October 3 – 9 to pray the Rosary

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



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



OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

ST. THÉRÈSE'S 'LITTLE WAY' STILL GUIDES HEARTS TO GOD

Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most beloved spiritual figures in modern Catholicism.

In 2025, the Church honors a saint whose impact has only grown with time. One hundred years after her canonization, the Jubilee of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face — the saint better known around the world as the Little Flower — is drawing pilgrims to her enduring message of trust, love and joyful simplicity.

Canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925, then declared a doctor of the Church by John Paul II in 1997, Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most beloved spiritual figures in modern Catholicism. Her “Little Way,” rooted in childlike trust in Divine Mercy, continues to captivate the hearts of the faithful and spiritual seekers alike.

The centenary year began on Jan. 4 and will continue until next Christmas, with celebrations taking place in her hometown of Lisieux in northern France, weekends.

The Power of the ‘Little Way’

What continues to draw people to the Little Flower is the radical simplicity of her spiritual vision. In a culture driven by achievement, noise, and self-assertion, her “little way” of doing small things with great love offers an antidote.

Reflecting on the lasting influence of the Lisieux saint, Father Emmanuel Schwab, rector of the shrine, recently recalled Pope Francis’ 2023 apostolic exhortation *C’est la Confiance* (“It Is Trust”) dedicated to her, which opened with a line from the saint: “It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love.”

“These last words sum up her ‘little way’: a distraught trust in God who saves, gives life, and leads us to love him beyond all else.”

Thérèse’s message is all the more relevant today, as her spiritual journey was not without trials. Born in Alençon on October 1, 1873, she entered the Carmel of Lisieux at just 15 and died of tuberculosis in 1897 at the age of 24. On Easter Sunday 1896, already gravely ill, she entered what she called her “night of faith.” For the last 18 months of her life, she experienced the absence of all her usual comforting images

of God. This period of spiritual darkness, as described by theologian Father François Marxer, teaches us “not to make a pact or to enter into a confrontation but to put up with that part of atheism we all have within us,” aware that “this night is God himself.”

This capacity to speak to wounded, searching souls is part of what has drawn singer St-Pier so deeply into the saint’s orbit. “Therese helped me discover a faith that’s simple to apply on a daily basis. It doesn’t require big actions, big demonstrations, or guilt-tripping. God loves us, even if we’re sinners, even if we’re not exceptional.”

A Global Jubilee

The centenary celebrations extend beyond France. In the U.S., a major relics tour will span over a dozen cities from October to December. In Ireland, Knock Shrine will host a “St. Thérèse International Day” took place on July 13, combining relics’ veneration, Eucharistic celebration, rosary procession, conferences, and communal celebrations. The United Kingdom is also preparing national commemorations.

As the faithful converge on Lisieux and gather across continents, they do so not only to honor a saint but also to reconnect with a spiritual intuition that continues to illuminate the dark corners of modern life. In celebrating the centenary of her canonization, the Church once again turns its gaze toward the childlike audacity of Thérèse’s promise: “I will spend my heaven doing good on earth.”

