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



1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



Mass Intentions

Sat Nov 28	5:00 pm	+Varghese Paily
Sun Nov 29	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Nov 29	10:30 am	
Mon Nov 30	8:30 am	+Francisco Lopez By Ivette Hernandez
Tue Dec 1	8:30 am	+Steinhoff Family
Thu Dec 3	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Dec 4	8:30 am	Sr. Zofia
Sat Dec 5	8:30 am	Fr. Gabriel Kamienski
Sat Dec 5	5:00 pm	
Sun Dec 6	8:00 am	For All Parishioners
Sun Dec 6	10:30 am	

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 priests

Dec 2, 2015 Msgr. Vidal Arboleda
Dec 5, 2008 Rev. Stephen Phillips
Dec 13, 1971 Msgr. William Mullally
Dec 21, 1997 Rev. William O'Farrell
Dec 22, 1981 Rev. Vincent Smith
Dec 22, 2010 Rev. Gerard Granahan

The first Advent candle is the "Prophet's Candle," a purple candle that represents *hope*—symbolizing the anticipation of the coming Messiah and God's promised salvation.

LECTORS	EMHC
11/28-5:00 pm	
Mike DeNeve Ryan Curtis	Susan DeNeve Doug Van Orsdale
11/29-10:30 am	
Barbara Woodard Oziemar Woodard	Luke Almanzan Angelika Almanzan
12/5-5:00 pm	
Ruth Palmer Ann Slocum	Ruth Palmer Ann Slocum
12/6-10:30 am	
Evelyn Rivera Rick Davila	Evelyn Rivera Maria Davila

Saint Thomas Collection

11/15	Regular	$1734.00
	Maintenance	75.00
	All Souls	20.00
	Diocesan	708.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

11/15	Regular	536.00
	Diocesan	96.00

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers for the Church, please include your donations in the second collection.

COME TO PRAY

December 3 First Thursday of the Month is dedicated to pray for new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and the sanctity of life for those already called.

December 4 First Friday of the Month is dedicated to the Veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

December 5 First Saturday of the Month is dedicated to Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and benediction after Mass in monstrance.



$25 gift cards will be collected again this year to help needy children for Christmas. Please call the office to request assistance or if you know a family who might need assistance.

THE '3 ADVENTS' OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

If asked by an unbeliever what Advent is all about, some Christians might innocently respond, "It's when we prepare for Christmas." While such an answer is correct, it's also woefully incomplete. There is a lot more to Advent than mere preparation for Christmas.

It's important that we don't shortchange ourselves as believers. We need to claim all the lessons and graces of Advent. With this in mind, if someone were to ask us the question about Advent, we could begin by responding, "Well, there are actually three advents in the one Advent season."

Such an answer reveals the depth of the season itself. But what exactly do we mean when we say there are three advents in the one Advent season?

Since the word "advent" is Latin for "coming" or "arrival," is has several different applications. If we want to receive all the graces of Advent, then we need to understand the three advents, or three "comings" or "arrivals," of the Lord Jesus.

We can begin to understand the three advents by referencing what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about Advent. The Catechism only speaks explicitly of the Advent season twice. These two selections read in part:

"When the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (524).

"For this reason the Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the 'today' of her liturgy. But this also demands that catechesis help the faithful to open themselves to this spiritual understanding of the economy of salvation as the Church's liturgy reveals it and enables us to live it" (1095).

In these selections, we can see how the focus of the Church is not only on a remembrance of the historical First Coming of the Lord Jesus, but also his Second Coming at the end of time. As seen in the Catechism, the Church actually makes a direct comparison between the anticipation of the Lord's First Coming as a means of hope as we await his Second Coming. And so, Advent includes these two advents.

The Catechism also speaks of the sacred liturgy and the reliving of the great events of salvation history through it. While this is true in many ways, it is preeminently experienced in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, where the one historical sacrifice of the Lord Jesus is made present to us today. This liturgical "making present" of the saving mystery of the Lord is also an advent, a coming and arrival, of the Lord Jesus. And so, we have a third advent.

The spiritual tradition highlights these three advents. They are particularly summarized in a famous homily by a doctor of the Church, St. Bernard of Clairvaux. As a means of stressing the homily's importance, the Church places it within the Office of Readings on the Wednesday of the First Week of Advent.

In the cherished homily, St. Bernard — who is hailed as the "Honey-Sweet Doctor" because of the sweetness of his mystical writings — describes the three advents, the three comings of the Lord Jesus, in a rich biblical context. He sees the three advents as a part of God's plan for humanity.

He describes the First Coming:

"At his first coming the Lord was seen on earth and lived among men, who saw him and hated him."

Bernard then teaches about the sacramental coming of the Lord, the intermediate way as we await the Second Coming of the Lord:

"This middle coming is like a road that leads from the first coming to the last. At the first, Christ was our redemption; at the last, he will become manifest as our life; but in this middle way he is our rest and our consolation."

(To be continued next week)



There will be an Advent Penance Service on Friday, **December 18th** at 7:00 pm.