ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH • BARTOW, FL
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 15, 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 CHAPLAIN WHO DIED JUST 75 MINUTES BEFORE WWI ENDED. As we recently celebrated Veterans Day, this story reminds us of the extraordinary sacrifices made by our military chaplains.

On November 11, 1918, the world was preparing to celebrate the end of World War I. An armistice had been signed, and at precisely 11 a.m., the guns would fall silent. But for one Catholic priest serving on the front lines in France, the end of the war would come just a little too late. Fr. William Francis Davitt was a 32-year-old Army chaplain serving with the 32nd Division near the Argonne Forest. A former football captain at the College of the Holy Cross, he had volunteered to serve his country when the United States entered the war in 1917.

And he had already distinguished himself as a man of extraordinary courage. During fighting along the Vesle River in August 1918, Fr. Davitt led a group of volunteers through heavy machine-gun fire to rescue 40 wounded soldiers. Remarkably, every man was rescued without injury to those who saved them. For his bravery during the fighting, he received the French Croix de Guerre. He was also awarded the Silver Star for gallantry while burying the dead under enemy fire.

Fr. Davitt was not a priest who remained safely behind the lines. He accompanied his men into battle, ministered to the wounded, and risked his life to ensure that fallen soldiers received a proper burial. On the morning of November 11, he knew the war was almost over.

At approximately 9:45 a.m., Fr. Davitt climbed a tree near his regimental headquarters to hang an American flag in celebration of the approaching peace.

According to an account published in *The Stars and Stripes*, he climbed down, saluted the flag, and gave a loud cheer. Moments later, a German artillery shell exploded nearby, killing him instantly. Fr. Davitt became known as the last American officer killed in World War I, just 75 minutes before the armistice took effect.

The flag he had raised in celebration was later draped over his casket. His memorial in Holyoke, Massachusetts, remembers him as: “A lover of humanity. A brave soldier-priest. Beloved by all who knew him.”