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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 22, 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

4 WAYS TO MAKE IT A CATHOLIC THANKSGIVING Turn America's feasting day into a true feast day! We don't often think of Thanksgiving as a "Catholic" holiday. After all, it is a man-made occasion rather than a liturgical feast day like Christmas or Easter. However, a holiday created by Christians and centered around gratitude is something that merges easily with our faith, and so Thanksgiving can be a very Catholic day for us!

Here are some ideas for how to make it a Catholic Thanksgiving:

1. Start the day with Mass. The word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving," and indeed, the Mass is the greatest act of thanksgiving we can make to God. Additionally, you can center your prayers on the theme of gratitude throughout Thanksgiving Day. Invite your guests to pray with you, especially at grace before meals.
2. Remember an earlier Thanksgiving. Do we mean the harvest dinner of the Pilgrims? While we can remember that too, a Catholic Thanksgiving observance took place 56 years earlier. A Spanish fleet arrived in Florida in 1565, and its chaplain, Fr. Francisco López de Mendoza Grajales, offered a Mass of thanksgiving when they came ashore. Afterward, the Spanish shared a celebratory meal with members of the local Seloy community.
3. Celebrate St. Martin. In Catholic tradition, one of the great saints we celebrate in November is St. Martin of Tours, famous for his act of charity toward a needy beggar. His November 11 feast, called Martinmas, was traditionally celebrated with harvest foods, wine, and roast goose. Some traditions have even drawn a connection between the Martinmas goose and later Thanksgiving customs.

4. Imitate the charity of Squanto. Although the historical details of the first Thanksgiving are debated, we do know a good bit about a certain key character. Squanto had little reason to be kind to Europeans: an Englishman had captured him and taken him away from his people several years earlier. He was eventually freed in Spain with the help of Catholic friars and may have been baptized Catholic. Sadly, when Squanto returned home, he discovered that his community had been devastated by disease. Nonetheless, he acted as a translator and intermediary between the Pilgrims and the Native peoples of the area and helped the newcomers learn skills they needed to survive. His story offers a powerful example of forgiveness, charity, and generosity virtues we should all strive to imitate!

   In imitating charity, we should remember that our hearts often cling to a lack of charity when it comes to forgiveness. Is there anyone you need to forgive? This season is a time to look into our hearts and bring the truth to light.