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

ST. THOMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 8, 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

Who is the patron saint of the souls in Purgatory? This saint experienced purgatory while on earth.

A saint who was particularly devoted to the holy souls—and is now considered their patron saint—is **St. Catherine of Genoa**. St. Catherine was born into an aristocratic Italian family in 1447. She was a quiet, obedient, devout child who practiced prayer and penance and had a deep devotion to Jesus' Passion.

At the age of sixteen, her family arranged a marriage for her, possibly to end a feud between the two families. Her husband proved to be faithless, however, having also a violent temper and spending his money unwisely. Their married life was miserable. Catherine did not bear any children, and for the first five years lived in "melancholy submission" in her home.

For the next five years, she turned to the world for consolation, and began to engage in the kind of social activity expected of her state in life. This only increased her weariness and depression, and led to the loss of her religious fervor. So Catherine prayed earnestly for assistance in her trouble. Taking the advice of her sister, who was a nun, Catherine went to confession, and before the sacrament was begun or completed, had a profound mystical experience in which she clearly saw the depth of her sinfulness contrasted with the depth of God's love. Catherine renewed her commitment to rigorous prayer, penance, and works of mercy.

Meanwhile, God continued to favor her with mystical visions. She experienced within her soul a real purgatory, and had a deep understanding of what the Holy Souls experience and suffer there. She was given profound insights into the relationship between the Poor Soul and God, the reasons why they suffer, and the fact that these Holy Souls willingly embrace purgatory in order to be made perfectly pleasing in the sight of their Divine Lover, God Himself.

As for Catherine's husband, her virtue later won his conversion and he became a Third Order Franciscan. Together they cared for the poor and sick in the Genoa hospital.

She went a long way in teaching us how to pray for the souls in Purgatory, which is something we are all asked to do. During the month of November, the Church urges the faithful to pray for the souls in Purgatory.