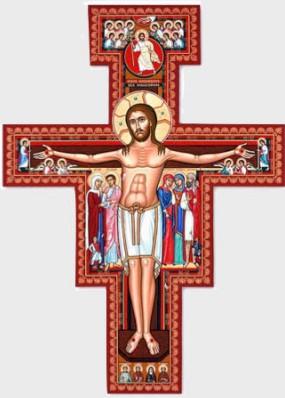


OCTOBER 23RD, 2022 | 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Thomas Aquinas

CATHOLIC CHURCH & STUDENT CENTER

The Diocese of Shreveport

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community of faith in the Diocese of Shreveport, affirm our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to both the local and Catholic college community in the Ruston, Louisiana area. We commit ourselves to God and to this community through a spirit of welcoming and service in the spirit of Christ.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00PM Vigil
Sunday: 9:30AM
1:30PM (Spanish)
7:00PM (Sept. - May)

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 8:15AM
Wednesday: 8:15AM
Thursday: 8:15AM
Friday: 12:00PM

BAPTISM

Please call the Church Office to schedule

MARRIAGE

Please call Church Office SIX MONTHS in advance to schedule

PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

Tuesday-Thursday 7:30AM-8:00AM
Friday 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM
Saturday: 3:30PM to 4:45PM

STAFF/TELEPHONE EXT.

Fr. Kevin Mues (318) 310-4007 **Pastor**
Deacon John Serio
Deacon Robert Ransom
Marcie Tucker (318) 255-2870 **Business Manager**
Elise Reis (318) 310-4009 **Religious Education Director**
Elaine Johnson **President of Pastoral Council**
Thurston Allen **Chairman of Finance Council**
St. Vincent de Paul Society (318)255-8090

October 23, 2022

THIRTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus said to them,
“I tell you, the tax collector went home justified,
not the Pharisee; for whoever exalt themselves
will be humbled, and those who humble
themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14

NEW PARISHIONERS

“May the Church be a place of God’s mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the Gospel.” - Pope Francis

Please contact the office to register your membership if you are new in our community.

813 Carey Ave. | Ruston, Louisiana 71270 | 318-255-2870 | stthomasaquinasruston.com

PARISHIONERS BIRTHDAYS

<u>October 2nd</u>	Eric Sutherland Andres Mujica Mia Vallez Jesus Castillo
<u>October 3rd</u>	Andre Ajanel
<u>October 5th</u>	Ileana Espinoza
<u>October 6th</u>	Selene Kennedy
<u>October 7th</u>	Maria Hernandez
<u>October 8th</u>	Virginia Lewis
<u>October 9th</u>	John Buske Sandra Gass Denise Ramirez Lolita Baudoin
<u>October 11th</u>	Silvana Freeman John Denny
<u>October 12th</u>	Brad Denny
<u>October 13th</u>	Delena Ashworth Ramona Adams Quincy Lewis
<u>October 15th</u>	Ricky Maier Victoria Velazquez
<u>October 17th</u>	Dylan Nash
<u>October 19th</u>	Jan Luffey
<u>October 20th</u>	Nina Cazenave Paula Martin
<u>October 21st</u>	Judy Lalla
<u>October 22nd</u>	Adolfo Garcia Norma Schodlatz
<u>October 23rd</u>	Sutton Taylor Thalia Aguirre Nadha Haynie
<u>October 24th</u>	Katie Cordaro Lander Smith
<u>October 27th</u>	Flint Sibayan Sandra Cannon
<u>October 28th</u>	Michael Villa Jesus Castillo
<u>October 29th</u>	Barbara Lewis Kevin Serio
<u>October 30th</u>	McKenzie Oakley
<u>October 31st</u>	Jaime Watson

If I've missed your birthday, please email me at

stacbulletin@suddenlinkmail.com so that I can add you to the master list.

THE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**Sunday, October 23rd**

9:30AM - Sunday Mass
1:30PM - Misa en Español
7:00PM - Sunday Mass

Monday, October 24th

9:00AM - 3:00PM - Church Office Open
5:30PM - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Tuesday, October 25th

7:30AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15AM - Daily Mass
9:00AM - 3:00PM - Church Office Open
10:00AM - Lectio Divina
6:30 PM. - El Manto de Maria

Wednesday, October 26th

7:30AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15AM - Daily Mass
9:00AM - 3:00PM - Church Office Open

Thursday, October 27th

7:30AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15AM - Daily Mass
9:00AM - 3:00PM - Church Office Open

Friday, October 28th

9:00AM - 1:00PM - Church Office Open
11:15AM - 11:45AM Penance & Reconciliation
12:00PM - Daily Mass

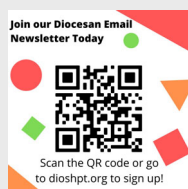
Saturday, October 29th

3:30PM - 4:45AM Penance & Reconciliation
5:00 PM - Vigil Mass



If you would like to donate flowers in the church, please sign up at the bulletin board in the church vestibule. Please call Carol Mercier at **(318)254-8826** for more information.

The Diocese has created an electronic newsletter for news and events around the diocese, as well as educational content about our Catholic faith. Please subscribe to it by scanning the QR code in the bulletin or by visiting the diocesan website.



**Altar flowers donated by
The Oakley family in loving memory of Liam R
Oakley**

Ministry Schedule**October 22nd 2022****Lectors:** George Trevison & Christie Weeks**Eucharistic Ministers:** Diane Singletary & Slade Richard**Altar Servers:** Cedric, Kevin & Peter Serio**October 23rd, 2022****Lectors:** Paul Jackson & Marina Bishop**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Ghongkedze, Tom Bishop, Emily Chartier & Gary Kennedy**Altar Servers:** Brad & Paige Denny**Lectores:** Angel Ventura y Juan Ramirez**October 29th 2022****Lectors:** Pam Allen & Samantha Groce**Eucharistic Ministers:** Bob Rorie and Mary Carol Vidrine**October 30th, 2022****Lectors:** Bruce Hampton & AJ Barbiero**Eucharistic Ministers:** Thomas Rogers, Elaine Johnson, Paul Jackson, Rodney Manning**Altar Servers:** Hannah & Brooklynn Bryan**Lectores:** Karen Lopez y Emelina Lopez**Mass Intentions****Saturday October 22nd**Luisa Viray+
(by Mr. & Mrs. Greg Viray)**Sunday October 23rd**Bobby Ortego +
(by Karen Ortego)Mary Navti +
(by Mary Ghongkedze)**Tuesday October 25th**Joseph Ghongkedze +
(by Mary Ghongkedze)**Wednesday October 26th**Joseph Ghongkedze +
(by Mary Ghongkedze)**Thursday October 27th**Bernadette Mariano
(by Barbara Lewis)**Friday October 28th**Linda Merza +
(by Mr. & Mrs. Greg Viray)

You may have Masses offered for your intentions, or for the intentions of your loved ones, both living and deceased. Please call the parish office for more information and available dates.



Please contact the parish office to have names added to our prayer list.

Miriam Bishop	Rueben Moreno
Charles Bourgeois	Cynthia Murry
Bill Buske	Katherine Ned
John Buske	Don Olivier
Frankie Career	Pearline Robey
Judy Darcey	Lometa Rorie
Sean Dwyer	Mary Russo
Becky Ferrell	Gloria Saldana
Bobby French	Laura Leigh Saleese
Mary Lou French	Jennie Schutte-Patrick
Emmely Gay	Jo Mary Smith
Bernice Harrison	Nicole Smith
Harvey Hayes	Tyler Sorrels
Maureen Hinton	Holly Hollis Star
Magnolia Johnson	Willie Tannerhill
Jeffery Judice	Diane Theriot
Chris Letendre	Kathleen "Kathy"
Ken Martinez	Walter Janice Williams
Tobie McKown	

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY*Weekend of October 8/ October 9*

General Sunday Collection	\$7,759.00
Catholic Life Center	\$20.00

*Thank you for continued and generous support!***Women's Guild**

All women of St. Thomas Aquinas are invited to the Women's Guild meeting on Tuesday November 1st at noon in the Luffey Center. Lunch is available for a \$5 donation. Please join us for lunch and fellowship! Call 318-548-7127 for more information.

Grupo de mujeres

Todas las mujeres de Santo Tomás de Aquino están invitadas a la reunión del Grupo de Mujeres el martes 1 de noviembre al mediodía en el Centro Luffey. El almuerzo está disponible para una donación de \$ 5. ¡Únase a nosotros para el almuerzo y el compañerismo! Llame al 318-548-7127 para obtener más información.

First Communion and SEEKERS Parent Meeting – October 23 @ 12 noon

Parents, we will have an important meeting for you to hear about the First Communion Mass date, Reconciliation preparation, dress code, required documents and forms, home activities, and prayers to learn. Please attend this meeting in the Luffey Youth Room at noon. Your children can attend with you.

Confirmation B Parent Meeting – October 30 @ 12 noon

Parents, we will have a meeting to discuss the Confirmation Mass date, retreat plan, and home activity resource packets. Please come to the Luffey Youth Room for the meeting at noon. Your children can attend with you.

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE – OCTOBER

October 23 Community Gathering 10:45 am – 12:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Celebration	Luffey gym
First Communion Class (2 nd grade)	St. Thomas School Building
SEEKERS First Communion Class	St. Thomas School Building
Confirmation A	Luffey Catholic
Life Center Youth Room	
Confirmation B	St. Thomas
Aquinas School Building AV Room	

October 30 Breakout Week Activities 10:45 am – 11:45 am

Adult Education Small Group	E. Donn Piatt
Catholic Student Center Big Room	
High School Small Group	E. Donn Piatt
Catholic Student Center Library	
Men's Small Group	E. Donn Piatt
Catholic Student Center Lounge	
Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 2 – 12)	St. Thomas
Aquinas School Building Room 107	
First Communion Class (2 nd grade)	St. Thomas
School Building	
Confirmation A	Luffey
Catholic Life Center Youth Room	
Confirmation B	St. Thomas
School Building AV Room	

Community Gathering Today! – October 23rd

Every time families participate in the Community Gatherings, they help other Catholic families grow in faith by sharing with one another. Make plans to attend as we will introduce the Storybook project and celebrate St. Francis of Assisi. There will be ample time for coaching parents hands-on to learn how to use the Family of Faith books and make the most out of the home lesson portion of this program.

PARENTS, please bring your parent guide and activity books. Donuts will be provided!

Family of Faith Liturgical Resources

Lower and Upper Elementary Level

How to Access the Liturgical Resources

Go to sophiaforteachers.org - Click on the classroom then lesson - Click on Teaching the Liturgical Year.

You will be prompted to put in your email address to gain FREE access. When you sign up with Sophia Press using your email, you will receive the readings as a full monthly set (pdf) by email. Activities for both lower and upper elementary level are included with the weekly readings. Enjoy!

St. Thomas Aquinas is currently using these resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word on Breakout Sundays!

Parents, you can do these *at home* to discuss the Gospel after Mass.

SMALL GROUPS

High School Small Group

High school teens interested in high school small group will have the chance to meet the small group facilitators. After signing in at the Luffey, high school participants will go to the E. Donn Piatt Catholic Student Center Library for an introduction to small group sessions. Teens will hear about the Ignite topics and the current event topics for this year. Teens, all are welcome! Want to know more? Contact Slade Richard at 318-514-8060 for more information.

Small Groups and Prayer Groups

For more information for each group, please contact the listed leaders. All are welcome!

Adult Education Small Group – E. Donn Piatt Catholic Student Center, BREAKOUT SUNDAYS. Contact Delena Ashworth delenaashworth@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Chaplet – chapel, meets Mondays 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Contact Gerry Brucia taedawood@yahoo.com

El Manto de Maria – Luffey gym, meets Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

Contact Luz Martinez 318-224-0980

High School Small Group – ACTS library, E. Donn Piatt Student Center, Contact Slade Richard 318-514-8060, slade@slacoindustrial.com

*This small group has a unique meeting schedule. Please request a schedule from your small group leader.

Lectio Divina – Luffey Youth Room, meets Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Contact Lee Smith 318-243-8307

Men's Small Group – E. Donn Piatt Catholic Student Center Contact Joshua Perot 318-243-0361, josh.a.perot@gmail.com

Women's Small Group – SVDP Room, Luffey Building

The Diocese of Shreveport is looking to fill the following positions:

- **Director of Marriage & Family Life**
- **Finance Office Administrative Assistant**
- **Information Technology Assistant**

Send resumes to:

Diocese of Shreveport
Attn: Human Resources
3500 Fairfield Ave
Shreveport, LA 71104

Ministry to the Homebound

Please contact the church office or Dc. John Serio (318-278-3600) if you need communion brought to your home. If you are aware of someone that needs communion brought to them please contact us. We do have a team of parishioners ready to assist.

If you are a Eucharistic Minister and would like to help with this ministry please contact Dc. John.



The Catholic faith, rich with traditions and devotions, will embark on a three year Eucharistic Revival in the United States. The Diocese of Shreveport will offer events throughout 2022-2023 that will encourage growth in understanding and devotion to Christ in the Eucharist, complemented by online formation and resources that will raise up Eucharistic Missionaries at all levels of the Church. The first step is to increase our adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is through Eucharistic Adoration that we give thanksgiving to God for Christ's True Presence in our lives. Christ, in the Eucharist, is our very sustenance that we are reminded of in John 6:53 (NABRE): "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." To learn more about the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Revival, go to <https://www.dioshpt.org/eucharistic-revival> or scan the QR code below. Let's reenergize our faith and approach the throne of grace with clearer understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus, the Source and Summit of the faith, is calling each Catholic to come, adore, and experience his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.



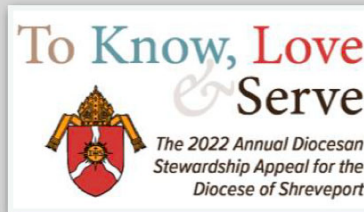
WEDNESDAY (\$) LUNCH SCHEDULE

LA TECH students

Please join us in the student center on the following dates for lunch & fellowship:

October 26, 2022, November 9, 2022 & December 7, 2022

Lunch is served from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing & serving you!

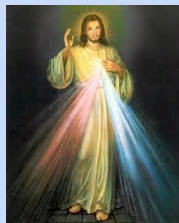


Our Parish Progress With the 2022 Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

We have just completed another week of the Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal: To Know, Love and Serve. As of this last week, 13.7 % of our families have participated in this year's appeal. We are grateful for everyone who has pledged or made a one-time gift thus far. Thank you.

Our goal is to improve our family participation over last year which was 13.2%. I am asking everyone who hasn't made a pledge or gift to pick up a pledge card and return envelope and make your gift as soon as you can and send it in. The ministries the appeal supports need our help. No matter the size of your pledge or one-time gift, let's make it the goal of the parish that each and every family pledge to the appeal.

Please, do not delay. Respond as generously as you can as God has been generous toward you and your family. Thank you.



The Devotion to the Divine Mercy is based on the private revelations of Jesus to Polish Saint Faustina in the 1930's. It recognizes God as infinite mercy and involves a decision to accept God's mercy with thanksgiving, to trust in Him, and to be merciful as He is merciful. One element of the devotion is the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a form of prayer using Rosary beads. The Recitation of the Chaplet is prayed each Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:00 PM in the small chapel. All are welcome!



BEING CATHOLIC
at Louisiana Tech University

Fall Festivities and Football Spirit



ACTS members changing the banners in the EDP big room to say CATS for some added Halloween fun.

The Association of Catholic Tech Students is getting into the fall festivities with a Halloween decorated student center and some fun fall events. The freshman crossing event on 10/26 is a spooky special 'pumpkin crossing' event.

The ACTS tailgates have been a great time for the students to hang out and show off the bulldog spirit. The Homecoming tailgate is a special one, as alumni come down for the game and get to join in on all the fun!

Weekly ACTStivities

Tuesday:

- * Tech-R-Treat

Wednesday:

- * Bible Study 6:30am
- * Dollar Lunch 11:30am
- * Freshman Crossing 7pm

Thursday:

- * Bible Study 7pm

Friday:

- * Praise & Worship 7pm

For more information, please visit: stac-acts.com

Thirtieth-Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's Gospel, the tax collector's prayer allows God to be God and so allows God to pour mercy into his heart. When we pray and give alms to the poor, we allow God's mercy to be poured into their hearts. **In the month of September, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring God's love and mercy to 12 families, providing \$3,002.00 in food, utilities and rent. Thank You!**



Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario:

En el Evangelio de este domingo, la oración del Publicano permite a que Dios sea Dios y derrame Su misericordia dentro de su corazón. Cuando nosotros rezamos y damos limosnas al pobre, también permitimos que la misericordia de Dios sea derramada dentro de sus corazones. En el mes de octubre, por medio de tus regalos, nuestra Conferencia de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl logró traer el amor y la misericordia de Dios a 12 familias, proveyendo \$3,002.00 en comestibles, para gastos de gas, agua y luz. Muchísimas gracias!

Mail donations to: **SVDP, PO Box 2462 Ruston, LA 71273**

"The Five Priests" Shreveport Martyrs of 1873

Please join us for a viewing of the documentary *The Five Priests* moderated by Dr. Cheryl White, one of the authors of the book, *Shreveport Martyrs of 1873: The Surest Path to Heaven*. The book from authors Father Peter Mangum, W. Ryan Smith, and Dr. White relates the account of five Roman Catholic priests who gave their lives caring for victims of the 1873 Yellow Fever epidemic in Shreveport, one of whom was Father Louis Gergaud, the first priest of St. Matthew Catholic Church. This event will take place Wednesday, November 2, at the St. Matthew Community Center at 6:30 p.m. A light supper will be provided. Dr. White will also be selling autographed copies of the book following the viewing. The costs of the books will be \$25.00 each, and all proceeds will benefit the Shreveport Martyrs cause.

1 Hour Documentary Film

Wednesday | November 2, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Community Center

121 Jackson St | Monroe, LA

R.S.V.P. to 318/323-8878

October 23, 2022

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MADE RIGHT BEFORE GOD

Although the opening lines of today's first reading claim that the Lord "knows no favorites" (Sirach 35:15) and is "not unduly partial toward the weak" (35:16), the remainder of the passage makes it clear that the Lord does indeed pay special attention to the weak, the oppressed, and the orphans and widows. The psalmist reiterates: "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (see Psalm 34:18). In the Gospel, Jesus claims that a tax collector is more justified in his prayer for mercy than the Pharisee, whose prayer was an account of his own righteous deeds. Jesus' point could not have been clearer: tax collectors in the Jewish society of Jesus' day were not just lowly; they were considered outcasts and cheaters. They collected taxes for the hated Romans and almost certainly collected enough to assure a generous income for themselves. Tax collectors were among society's outcasts; didn't this one just admit his own sinfulness? How could a tax collector be "justified" (that is, made right) before God, while the Pharisee was not? Why would God even listen to the prayer of a tax collector? This surely was a surprise, upsetting common assumptions about righteousness.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Lord is a God of justice who hears the cry of the oppressed, the orphan, the widow, the lowly (Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18).

Psalm — The Lord hears the cry of the poor (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — The crown of righteousness awaits me (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18).

Gospel — The tax collector stood at a distance, beat his breast, and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:9-14).

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How would I change if my faith, hope, and charity were to increase? How would I behave differently?

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 23, 2022

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds;

it does not rest until it reaches its goal,

nor will it withdraw

till the Most High responds.

— *Sirach 35:17-18a*

23 de octubre de 2022

Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

HECHO JUSTO ANTE DIOS

Aunque las primeras líneas de la primera lectura de hoy afirman que el Señor "no conoce favoritos" (Eclesiástico 35:15) y no "es indebidamente imparcial con los débiles" (35:16), el resto del pasaje deja claro que el Señor sí pone una atención particular a los débiles, a los oprimidos, a los huérfanos y a las viudas. El salmista reafirma: "El Señor escucha el clamor de los pobres" (ver el salmo 34:18). En el Evangelio, Jesús afirma que el recolector de impuestos está más justificado en su oración por misericordia que el fariseo, cuya oración era un relato de sus propias acciones justas. La finalidad de Jesús no podía ser más clara: a los recolectores de impuestos en la sociedad judía durante la época de Jesús no solamente se les consideraba miserables, sino también tramposos y eran marginados. Recaudaban impuestos para los odiados romanos y, casi con toda seguridad, recolectaban lo suficiente para asegurarse unos generosos ingresos para ellos mismos. Los recolectores de impuestos estaban entre los marginados de la sociedad, ¿no acababa este de admitir su propia pecaminosidad? ¿Cómo podría un recolector de impuestos ser "justificado" (es decir, hacer a una persona justa) ante Dios, mientras que el fariseo no lo era? ¿Por qué iba Dios a escuchar la oración de un recaudador de impuestos? Esto seguramente fue una sorpresa, perturbando las suposiciones típicas acerca de la justicia.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — El Dios de justicia escucha el grito de los oprimidos (Eclesiástico 35:12-14, 16-18).

Salmo — Si el afligido invoca al Señor, él lo escucha (Salmo 34 [33]).

Segunda lectura — La corona de los santos me está esperando (2 Timoteo 4:6-8, 16-18).

Evangelio — El publicano se quedaba atrás, diciendo, "Dios mío, ten piedad de mí que soy un pecador" (Lucas 18:9-14).

ORACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Dios todopoderoso y eterno,
aumenta en nosotros la fe, la esperanza y la caridad,
y para que merezcamos alcanzar lo que nos prometes,
concédenos amar lo que nos mandas.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,
que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo
y es Dios por los siglos de los siglos.

Preguntas de reflexión:

¿Cómo cambiaría yo si aumentaran mi fe, esperanza y caridad?

¿Cómo cambiaría mi comportamiento?

Trigésimo Domingo
del Tiempo Ordinario

23 de octubre de 2022

La oración del humilde atraviesa las nubes,

y mientras él no obtiene lo que pide

permanece sin descanso y no desiste,

hasta que el Altísimo lo atiende.

— *Eclesiástico 35:17-18a*

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270