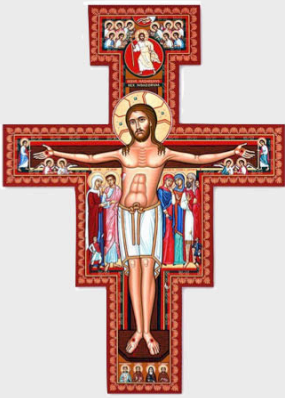


NOVEMBER 27TH, 2022 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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



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.

PARISHIONERS BIRTHDAYS

<u>November 1st</u>	Carl Johnson Heidi Adams Collins Frost Diane Singletary Juan Kevin Garcia
<u>November 2nd</u>	Sheila Mariano Araceli Rodriguez
<u>November 4th</u>	Eugene Pangilinan Judith VanderSchaaf Eduardo Medina
<u>November 5th</u>	Roland Allen Juan Rodriguez Emery Morris Dalyza Ajanel Glenna Jach
<u>November 6th</u>	Josh Perot
<u>November 7th</u>	Emma Moore Demarco Nash Alexis Turrubiarres Larry Mullens
<u>November 8th</u>	JoAnn Allen
<u>November 9th</u>	Diane Taylor
<u>November 10th</u>	Ted Morris Valeria Ruiz
<u>November 11th</u>	Joanna Ward
<u>November 12th</u>	Patricia Carter Sophia Mariano Joseph Mutebi
<u>November 13th</u>	Olimpia Lopez John Atilano
<u>November 15th</u>	Craig Taylor
<u>November 16th</u>	Mary Russon Tom Kelly Ramiro Landaverde
<u>November 17th</u>	Jeanne Van Benthuyssen Mark Van Benthuyssen Brady Berg Yeni Juan
<u>November 19th</u>	Alexander Ulloa Mia Tapia Melissa Castilo Juan Gonzalez
<u>November 20th</u>	George Trevison
<u>November 21st</u>	William Abrahm
<u>November 24th</u>	Lee Smith Owen Watson
<u>November 25th</u>	Tiago Garcia
<u>November 26th</u>	Mary Hannibal Jacqueline Houston Christopher Corcia
<u>November 27th</u>	Abraham Ajanel Jr. Noe Lopez Isabella Tucker
<u>November 28th</u>	Angel Daniel Moya
<u>November 29th</u>	John Allen Carson Perot
<u>November 30th</u>	Edin Lopez

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, November 27th**

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

Monday, November 28th

9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open
5:30 PM - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Tuesday, November 29th

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM - Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open
10:00 AM - Lectio Divina
6:30 PM - El Manto de Maria

Wednesday, November 30th

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM - Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open
9:00 PM - Mass

Thursday, December 1st

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM - Thanksgiving Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open

Friday, December 2nd

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

Saturday, December 3rd

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

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.



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.

Ministry Schedule**November 26th 2022****Lectors:** George Trevison & Dolly Hurtig**EMHC:** Bob Rorie & Slade Richard**November 27th, 2022****Lectors:** Paul Jackson & Larry Mullens**EMHC:** Carol Mercier, Tom Bishop, Rodney Manning & Lily Sklar**Altar Servers:** Brad & Paige Denny**Lectores:** Marichuy Torres y Lulu Landaverde**December 3rd 2022****Lectors:** Pam Allen & Samantha Groce**EMHC:** Slade Richard & Mary Carol Vidrine**Altar servers:** Cedric, Kevin & Peter Serio**December 4th, 2022****Lectors:** Bruce Hampton & AJ Barbiero**EMHC:** Elaine Johnson, Emily Chartier, Gary Kennedy & Lily Skylar**Altar Servers:** Hannah & Brooklyn Bryan**Lectores:** Nicolas Cirilo y Sergio Ruiz

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

Bernadette Bennett
Miriam Bishop
Charles Bourgeois
Bill Buske
John Buske
Frankie Career
Judy Darcey
Sean Dwyer
Becky Ferrell
Bobby French
Mary Lou French
Emmely Gay
Bernice Harrison
Harvey Hayes
Maureen Hinton
Magnolia Johnson
Jeffery Judice
Chris Letendre
Ken Martinez

Tobie McKown
Rueben Moreno
Cynthia Murry
Katherine Ned
Don Olivier
Pearline Robey
Lometa Rorie
Mary Russo
Gloria Saldana
Laura Leigh Saleese
Jennie Schutte-Patrick
Jo Mary Smith
Nicole Smith
Tyler Sorrels
Holly Hollis Star
Willie Tannerhill
Diane Theriot
Kathleen "Kathy"
Walter Janice Williams

Mass Intentions**Saturday November 26th**

Encarnation Viray+
(by Mr. & Mrs. Greg Viray)

Sunday November 27th

Joseph Ghongkedze +
(by Mary Ghongkedze)

For the Parishioners of Saint
Thomas Aquinas

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.

Worldwide Rosary, December 8th

Within 25 countries (and counting), women will join together on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this December 8th, to publicly pray the rosary, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. Organizers reported to ACI Prensa, "We believe in the power of prayer to change the world, and especially in the power of the rosary, which Our Lady has strongly requested for the spiritual battle against evil in the world and in our countries."

Although there is nothing officially organized by the Diocese of Shreveport this year, that should not stop all women from praying the rosary individually, in a family, or in groups with other women in a more intentional fashion that day.

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

Weekend of November 12/November 13

General Sunday Collection \$8,512.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

**St. Vincent de Paul
First Sunday of Advent**

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. **As you put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor too long for the coming of the Lord. be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.**

**Ministry to the Homebound**

Please contact the church office or Dr. 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 Dr. John.



NEW! Family of Faith Meet and Share will begin on Wednesday, November 9th. This will be a time for families interested in completing some of the Family of Faith book material together at the church campus. Meet and Shares will be from 6:00 – 7:00 pm and will meet in the St. Thomas School Building. This will not be a drop-off format meeting. All are welcome!

Meet and Share Dates

December 7 December 14

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE DATES

November 20
November 27
November 30 (Wednesday, 5:30 pm)
December 4
December 7 (Wednesday, 5:30 pm)

Parents and catechists are needed to assist with the Christmas Play rehearsals. The play will be during the Family of Faith December Community Gathering on December 11 @ 10:45 am. The children will have the Christmas play; and then the church will host a festive pancake breakfast! No sacrament classes will meet that day so families can all be together for the parish breakfast.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Thursdays, Luffey Youth Room)

The Rite (soon to be The Order) of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for those interested in discovering the Catholic faith. The discussions take place on Thursday evenings. The initial stage goes into many of the teachings of the faith. Later, we delve deeper into our faith and the Holy Sacraments. If baptized adult Catholics are wishing to be confirmed, they are welcome to join this discussion group also. If any parishioner seeks to refresh knowledge of the faith, he or she is welcome to attend.

Meeting Times: Thursdays, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (September – May)

Please call Deacon John Serio at 318-255-3788 or call the PSR office at 318-310-4009 for more information.

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

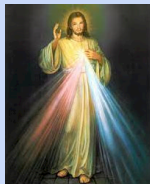
Virtus Requirement for Adult Volunteers: Please stay up-to-date on your monthly Virtus bulletin requirements, even if you are not currently volunteering. Accounts will periodically get purged if lapsed or inactive. Volunteers who need help accessing the Virtus online accounts or help setting up an account should schedule an appointment with the PSR office. Laptops are available for parishioners to use to complete the online monthly bulletin requirements. Remember, Virtus is available in English and Spanish. Please call the PSR line to schedule a time to use the laptops or to ask for assistance: 318-310-4009.

Advent Activities



ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE 2022**November 26 (Saturday)** - Dr Gary & Jan Luffey Family**November 27 (Sunday)**. Wynn & Karen Rogers Family
November 27 (Spanish Mass) Carolina de los Santos and Family**December 3 (Saturday)** - Steve & Virginia Danna Family
December 4 (Sunday) Kellie Malone
December 4 (Spanish Mass) Patricia Rodriguez and Family**December 10 (Saturday)** - Steven & Samantha Groce Family
December 11 (Sunday) Clyde & Mary Carol Vidrine
December 11 (Spanish Mass) Jakelia Rodriguez and Family**December 17 (Saturday)** - Joshua & Heidi Adams Family
December 18 (Sunday) Louis & Elise Reis Family
December 18 (Spanish Mass) Margarita Castillo and Family**Diocese of Shreveport Job Openings**Director of Marriage and Family Life
Business Office Administrative Assistant
Information Technology "IT" support
Multicultural Ministry Director
Editor of Publications (Catholic Connection)For more information and how to apply:
<https://www.dioshpt.org/job-opportunities>**Camp Little Flower**

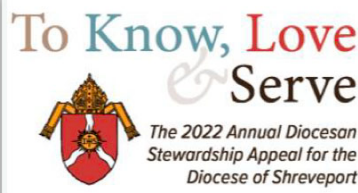
The Diocese of Shreveport will hold an overnight summer camp next year for youth ages 8-13. The dates for the camp will be Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28, at Camp Bethany in Bethany, LA. Registration will start on Thursday, December 1. The camp is open to all parishes. Please join us for a week of faith and fun.

Please see the diocese of Shreveport's website for more information or email Fr. Raney Johnson at rjohnson@stmaryshreveport.org.

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!



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.

**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, 14.3 % 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.



BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University

Welcome Back!



Last year's Christmas Party. Sean (left) and Charles (right) showcasing the highlights of the White Elephant gift exchange!

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

Starting Off Strong:

The students are back for another quarter at LA Tech! Getting into the Christmas spirit, ACTS has started their yearly Life Tree for Life Choices here in Ruston!

The Association of Catholic Tech Students are also planning a trip to the Natchitoches Light Festival on Saturday to start off the quarter!

Weekly ACTStivities

Wednesday:

- * Bible Study 6:30am
- * Dollar Lunch 11:30am

Thursday:

- * Bible Study 7pm

Friday:

- * Guys' & Girls' Group 7pm

Saturday:

- * Natchitoches Light Festival

JOIN US FOR A MEN'S RETREAT

Who is Jesus for you?

GUEST SPEAKER: MIKE VAN VRANKEN

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Saturday, January 14 | 522 E Flournoy Lucas Rd
 Time: 8 AM - 1 PM | Shreveport, LA
 Cost: \$25 | 71115

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent**PEOPLE OF THE LIGHT**

We are called to reflect the light of God's love through the ways in which we live our lives. Imagine the impact if each of us took this call to heart, every day, at home, work, or school, in our parish, in the world. "All nations shall stream toward it," toward the love that only comes from God. Yet, we must admit that much of the time we fail to be beacons of God's light. We fall asleep, complacent, preferring to go the easy route, which often leads to darkness rather than the radiance of Christ's light. As we begin the season of Advent, Saint Paul admonishes us to throw off the works of darkness, to awaken to the call of light and love. In today's Gospel, Jesus too tells us to stay awake, to be prepared to greet the Lord of light as people of the light.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — We will rejoice as we go up to the Lord's house (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**Advent Prayer**

Come, Lord Jesus.

O God, you are great indeed.

Look upon us and reveal your glory,

promised to Abraham and sent to us

through David and his lineage.

Send us the warmth of your love, the light of your Word,
the vision of your wisdom, and the comfort of your people.

Open our hearts in welcome and grant us your salvation.

Fill our minds with watchful hope

and let us see your kindness.

Give us new life, the promise and joy of salvation.

May the glory of your Son dwell in our land forever.

We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH**The Season of Advent**

What are we really waiting for during Advent? The longstanding tradition of the Church is that the Advent season really marks not one but three comings of Christ: his coming into history two thousand years ago, his coming in glory at the end of time, and his coming into our hearts here and now. Advent starts with a focus on the future coming of Christ so that we might see the big picture. If Christmas is to make any sense at all, we have to ask the question, "What are you doing to get ready for the (final) coming of Christ?" This perspective opens us up to the sense of anticipation experienced by the Jewish people on the eve of the first coming of Christ. This Advent, we will hear John the Baptist tell them (and us) how best to prepare. He urges repentance and an examination and reform of our way of life.

Then on the Fourth Sunday, we are drawn in to the history of Jesus' arrival as the child of Joseph and Mary. Our work of spiritual preparation brings us to the point of the whole season. What good is it that Christ comes into my heart if I don't then carry that presence out into the world, just as Mary did?

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

FULFILL TODAY

If what you did yesterday still looks big to you, surely you have not done much today.

27 de noviembre de 2022

Primer Domingo de Adviento**PERSONAS DE LUZ**

Estamos llamados a reflejar la luz del amor de Dios a través de la forma en que vivimos nuestras vidas. Imagina el impacto que tendría si cada uno de nosotros se tomara a pecho esta llamada, cada día, en casa, en el trabajo o en la escuela, en nuestra parroquia, en el mundo. "Todas las naciones irán hacia ella", hacia el amor que sólo viene de Dios. Sin embargo, debemos admitir que muchas veces no somos faros de la luz de Dios. Nos dormimos, complacientes, prefiriendo ir por el camino fácil, que a menudo conduce a la oscuridad en lugar de al resplandor de la luz de Cristo. Al comenzar el tiempo de Adviento, San Pablo nos exhorta a despojarnos de las obras de las tinieblas, a despertar a la llamada de la luz y del amor. En el Evangelio de hoy, también Jesús nos dice que permanezcamos despiertos, que estemos preparados para recibir al Señor de la luz como personas de la luz.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Todas las naciones confluirán hacia el monte del Señor (Isaías 2:1-5).

Salmo — Nos regocijaremos al subir a la casa del Señor (Salmo 122 [121]).

Segunda lectura — Ya es el momento de que se despierten del sueño (Romanos 13:11-14).

Evangelio — Velen, pues, y estén preparados para la venida del Hijo del hombre (Mateo 24:37-44).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA**Oración de Adviento**

Ven, Señor Jesús.

Oh, Dios, de verdad tú eres inmenso.

Míranos y revela tu gloria,

prometida a Abraham y enviada a nosotros

a través de David y su linaje.

Envíanos el calor de tu amor, la luz de tu Palabra,

la visión de tu sabiduría y el consuelo de tu pueblo.

Abre nuestros corazones en la acogida

y concédenos tu salvación.

Llena nuestras mentes con esperanza vigilante

y haznos ver tu bondad.

Danos una vida nueva, la promesa

y la alegría de la salvación.

Que la gloria de tu Hijo habite en nuestra tierra

para siempre.

Oremos: Ven, Señor Jesús. Amén.

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE**El Tiempo de Adviento**

¿Qué es lo que realmente esperamos durante el Adviento? La tradición de la Iglesia es que el tiempo de Adviento no marca una, sino tres venidas de Cristo: su llegada a la historia hace dos mil años, su venida en gloria al final de los tiempos, y su venida a nuestros corazones aquí y ahora. El Adviento comienza centrándose en la futura venida de Cristo para que podamos ver el panorama general. Para que la Navidad tenga algún sentido, tenemos que preguntarnos: "¿Qué estás haciendo para prepararte para la venida (final) de Cristo?" Esta perspectiva nos abre al sentido de anticipación que experimentó el pueblo judío en la víspera de la primera venida de Cristo. En este Adviento, escucharemos a Juan el Bautista decirles (y a nosotros) cuál es la mejor manera de prepararse. Insta al arrepentimiento, al examen y a la reforma de nuestro modo de vida.

Luego, el Cuarto Domingo de Adviento, nos adentramos en la historia de la llegada de Jesús como hijo de José y María. Nuestro trabajo de preparación espiritual nos lleva al punto de toda la temporada. ¿De qué sirve que Cristo entre en mi corazón si luego no llevo esa presencia al mundo, como hizo María?

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TIEMPO DE PREPARACIÓN

Esta vida es el tiempo de preparación para nuestro estado futuro. Nuestras almas continuarán siendo por siempre lo que hacemos de ellas en este mundo.

—John Tillotson, Arzobispo de Canterbury

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270