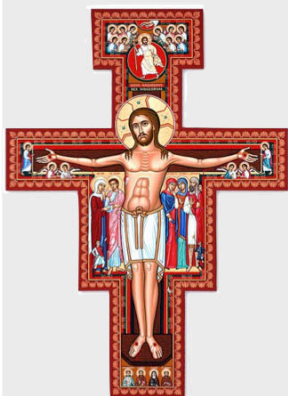


DECEMBER 4TH, 2022 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

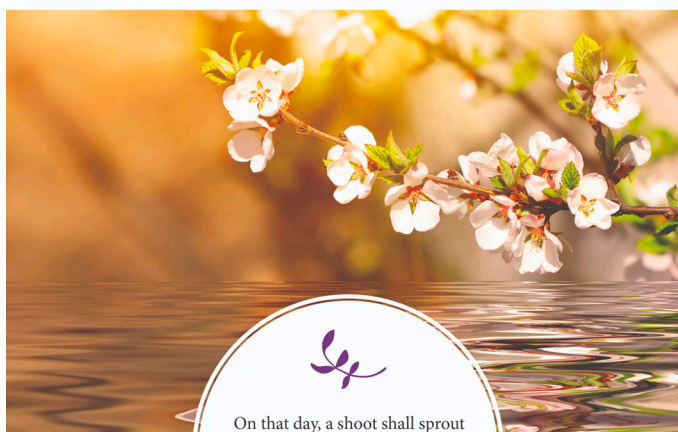
PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

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

DECEMBER 4, 2022 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



On that day, a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.

- Isaiah 11:1

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>December 1st</u>	Brynn Reger
	Luis Angel Garcia
<u>December 2nd</u>	Rosaland Morris
	Thomas Rogers
<u>December 5th</u>	Liliana Salazar
<u>December 6th</u>	Gordon Reger
<u>December 7th</u>	Christie Weeks
	Bob Rorie
	Ximena Ruiz
<u>December 8th</u>	Louis Reis
	Lucas Haynie
<u>December 9th</u>	Marilyn Rhodes
<u>December 10th</u>	Camille Maier
	Patrick Stuckey
<u>December 11th</u>	John Thomas Colvin
	Jack Smith
	Alice Spears
	Renee Garcia
<u>December 12th</u>	Danielle Nash
	Jesus Torres
<u>December 13th</u>	Sergio Ruiz
<u>December 14th</u>	Elise Reis
<u>December 15th</u>	Jed Denny
<u>December 16th</u>	Frank Reger
	Ella Viator
	Harold Cramer
	Mary Carol Vidrine
<u>December 17th</u>	Karen Rogers
	Jesus Gonzalez
<u>December 18th</u>	Paul Jackson
	Barbara Aguirre
<u>December 19th</u>	Anyi Garcia Solis
	Susan Faucheux
	Beatriz Hernandez
	Francisco Morales
<u>December 22nd</u>	Britney Perez
<u>December 24th</u>	John Serio
<u>December 25th</u>	Cruz Medrano
	Bryan Lopez
<u>December 26th</u>	Beau Hickman
	Clyde Vidrine
<u>December 27th</u>	Pamela Allen
<u>December 28th</u>	Ohan Kitishian
	Jan Sibayan
	Harry May
	Alonda Tapia
<u>December 29th</u>	Daniel Lindsey
<u>December 30th</u>	Scott Martin
	Leslie Mendez
<u>December 31st</u>	Kenneth Carter
	James Martin
	Kimberly Landaverde
	Erick Ramirez

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, December 4th**

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

Monday, December 5th

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

Tuesday, December 6th

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, December 7th

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 8th

7:30 AM - 8:00AM Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM - Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office CLOSED
6:00 PM - Holy Day Mass
7:30 PM - Misa en Español

Friday, December 9th

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

Saturday, December 10th

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**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**Lectors:** Nicolas Cirilo y Sergio Ruiz**December 10th 2022****Lectors:** Mary Carol Vidrine & Christie Weeks**EMHC:** Diane Singletary & John Ryan Serio**December 11th, 2022****Lectors:** Thomas Rogers & Carmen Bishop**EMHC:** Jim Martin, Rodney Manning, Paul Jackson, Mary Ghongkedze**Altar Servers:** Ava & Olivia Good**Lectors:** Angel Ventura y Lulu Landaverde

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
Roserita Lefevre
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 December 3rd**

Gloria Cantrell +
(by Diane Taylor)

Sunday December 4th

Jesse Trevino +
(by Paul Jackson)

Javier Rodriguez +
(by Juana Melendez)

For the Parishioners of Saint
Thomas Aquinas

Wednesday December 7th

Gloria Cantrell +
(by Diane Taylor)

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 or you can now check our website <https://stthomasaquinasruston.com/calendar/>.

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.

**STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY**

Weekend of November 19/November 20

General Sunday Collection \$7,023.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

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

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. **Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.**

**Women's Guild**

All women of St. Thomas Aquinas are invited to the Women's Guild meeting on Tuesday December 13th at noon in the Luffey Center. Join us for lunch and Christmas fun! For more information call 318-548-7127.

Todas las mujeres de Santo Tomás de Aquino están invitadas a la reunión del Gremio de Mujeres el martes 13 de diciembre al mediodía en el Centro Luffey. ¡Únase a nosotros para el almuerzo y la diversión navideña! Para obtener más información, llame al 318-548-7127.

DECEMBER 4 – Formation Sunday

Adults will listen to a lecture in the Luffey from Father Kevin and participate in the small group table questions.

Spanish adult team leaders will be in the Luffey assisting with the lecture notes and small group table questions.

Children will go with catechists to the PSR building for a lesson on the December topic.

3rd/4th grade – Leaders Marina Bishop and Samantha Groce

5th/6th grade – Leaders Becki Patrick, Amanda Berg, Ana Moscoco

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE DATES @ 10:45 am – 11:45 am

December 4 Cast dress rehearsal. No choir members will need to attend this practice.

December 7 (Wednesday, 5:30 pm) Cast and Children's Choir will practice together.

CHRISTMAS PLAY – DECEMBER 11 @ 10:45 am.

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!

Sacrament classes will not meet on Dec. 11. Families can be together for the play and pancake breakfast!

SUNDAYS AT A GLANCE – December Faith Formation Schedule

Dec. 4 Formation Sunday, Christmas Play practice, First Communion, SEEKERS, Confirmation A and Confirmation B, SEEKERS Parent Meeting after class.

Dec. 11 Community Gathering – Christmas Play and Pancakes, No sacrament classes

Dec. 18 Breakout Sunday – Small Groups, CLW, sacrament classes, No SEEKERS

SMALL 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. **High School Small Group will meet on December 4 @ 10:45 am.**

*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,
Contact Bridget Skinner, bdw015@gmail.com

ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE 2022

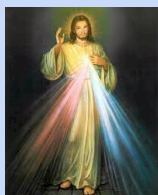
December 3 (Saturday) - Steve & Virginia Danna Family
December 4 (Sunday) Kellie Malone
December 4 (Spanish Mass) Patricia Rodriguez and Family

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>



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!

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.

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.



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.



A NUESTRA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE EL DÍA LUNES 12 DE DICIEMBRE

5:00 pm: Procesión alrededor de la iglesia y santo rosario

6:00 pm: Santa misa

7:30 pm: celebración LUFFEY center

7:30 a 8:00 pm: Comida y grupo de alabanza de Mississippi

8:00 a 8:30 pm: Rifa de electrodomésticos

8:30 a 9:00 pm: Danza folclórica de Shreveport

9:00 a 9:30 pm: Danza folclórica de la parroquia santo Tomás de Aquino

9:30 a 10:00 pm: Danza folclórica de Shreveport

CELEBRATION OF OUR VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

5:00 pm: Procession around the church and holy rosary

6:00 pm: Mass

7:30 pm: LUFFEY center celebration

7:30 - 8:00 pm: Food and Mississippi praise group

8:00 - 8:30 pm: Raffle of household appliances

8:30 - 9:00 pm: Shreveport Folk Dance

9:00 - 9:30 pm: Folk dance of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

9:30 - 10:00 pm: Shreveport Folk Dance



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 71115
 Cost: \$25

ST THOMAS YOUTH
6-12 GRADES
CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC 7 6-8

LUFFEY CENTER
BRING YOUR FAVORITE PARTY FOOD AND A \$5-10\$ WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT!

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

HARMONY

Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice, and awe in God's presence reign. In such a paradise, everyone sees eye to eye and thinks in harmony with each other, as Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Romans. Even animals with a natural animosity toward one another coexist peacefully. John the Baptist understood that such harmonious relationships do not simply happen. They are the fruit of living in right relationship with God and others.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalm — Peace and justice will come in the day of the Lord (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

Gospel — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

The Immaculate Conception (December 8)

December 8 we celebrate the patronal solemnity of the United States and the greatest of Mary's Advent festivals. On that day we remember Mary's conception in the womb of her mother (and nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate Mary's birth). In this liturgy, we affirm our belief that God prepared Mary to be the mother of the son of God by allowing her a share, from the moment of her conception, in the salvation that would be won for all by Christ.

Five mothers make their presence felt on December 8. The first is Eve, the mother of all the living. The second is Mary's mother, who conceived, brought to birth, and nurtured an "immaculate" daughter who would become the mother of the Word made Flesh. The third is Elizabeth, who conceived her son John "in her old age." The fourth, of course, is Mary herself. Finally, the letter to the Ephesians and the texts of the Mass for this feast remind us that the Church has been "chosen" to be a spiritual mother. We pray: "The image of the Virgin is found in your Church . . . Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith."

In this Advent time, we are called, as Mary was, to make room for Christ in our hearts. What will it take, what will be the cost for us to become, as Mary became, real "bearers of the Word?" Let us be open to the intercession of Mary on our behalf, that we may become more and more like her beloved Son.

WORDS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO JUAN DIEGO

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."

4 de diciembre de 2022

Segundo Domingo de Adviento

ARMONÍA

¿Has conocido alguna vez un momento en el que, sólo por un breve instante, has sentido que todo estaba bien en el mundo? Es precisamente un momento así, que se extiende hasta la eternidad, el que describe el escritor de Isaías en la primera lectura de hoy: la perfección de todo, centrada en el espíritu de Dios, donde reinan el conocimiento, la justicia y el asombro ante la presencia de Dios. En ese paraíso, todos ven y piensan en armonía, como describe san Pablo en su carta a los Romanos. Incluso los animales con una animosidad natural entre ellos coexisten pacíficamente. Juan el Bautista comprendió que esas relaciones armoniosas no se producen sin más. Son el fruto de vivir en una relación correcta con Dios y con los demás.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Brotará un retoño del tronco de Jesé. Juzgará a los pobres con justicia, y herirá al violento con el látigo de su boca (Isaías 11:1-10).

Salmo — La paz y la justicia vendrán en el día del Señor (Salmo 72 [71]).

Segunda lectura — Vivan en perfecta armonía unos con otros. Por lo tanto, acójense los unos a los otros como Cristo los acogió a ustedes, tanto circuncidados como gentiles (Romanos 15:4-9).

Evangelio — Juan Bautista predica, "Arrepiéntanse, porque el reino de los cielos está cerca" (Mateo 3:1-12).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Dios te salve, María (Ave María)

Dios te salve, María,
llena eres de gracia, el Señor es contigo.
Bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres,
y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.
Santa María, Madre de Dios,
ruega por nosotros, pecadores,
ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén.

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

La Inmaculada Concepción (8 de diciembre)

El 8 de diciembre celebramos la solemnidad patronal de los Estados Unidos y la mayor de las fiestas de Adviento de María. Ese día recordamos la concepción de María en el seno de su madre (y nueve meses después, el 8 de septiembre, celebramos el nacimiento de María). En esta liturgia, afirmamos nuestra creencia de que Dios preparó a María para ser la madre del hijo de Dios al permitirle participar, desde el momento de su concepción, en la salvación que sería ganada para todos por Cristo.

Cinco madres hacen sentir su presencia el 8 de diciembre. La primera es Eva, la madre de todos los vivos. La segunda es la madre de María, que concibió, dio a luz y alimentó a una hija "inmaculada" que se convertiría en la madre del Verbo hecho carne. La tercera es Isabel, que concibió a su hijo Juan "en su vejez". La cuarta, por supuesto, es la propia María. Finalmente, la carta a los Efesios y los textos de la misa de esta fiesta nos recuerdan que la Iglesia ha sido "elegida" para ser madre espiritual. Rezamos: "La imagen de la Virgen se encuentra en tu Iglesia... Traza en nuestras acciones las líneas de su amor, en nuestros corazones su disposición a la fe".

En este tiempo de Adviento, estamos llamados, como María, a dar cabida a Cristo en nuestros corazones. ¿Qué nos costará, qué nos costará convertirnos, como María, en verdaderos "portadores de la Palabra"? Estemos abiertos a la intercesión de María en nuestro favor, para que nos parezcamos cada vez más a su amado Hijo.

PALABRAS DE NUESTRA SEÑORA A JUAN DIEGO

"No se turbe tu corazón; no temas esa enfermedad, ni ninguna otra enfermedad o angustia. ¿No estoy yo aquí? ¿No soy tu Madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra? ¿No soy yo tu salud? ¿No estás por ventura en mi regazo? ¿Qué más has de menester? No te apene ni te inquiete otra cosa".

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270