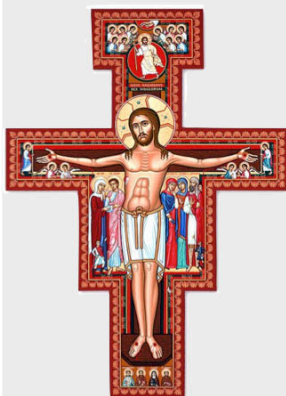


DECEMBER 11TH, 2022 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY

of
Advent

Exemplar from the Encyclopedia of Catholicism, Vol. 1, pp. 1087, 1097, 1088, 1070, CCO. Copyright © U.S. Faithful Co., Inc. Photos © Peter Cahill/istock

Jesus said,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
Matthew 11:4-5

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>	Rosalind 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 11th**

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

Monday, December 12^h

9:00 AM - 4:00PM - Church Office Open
5:30 PM - Chaplet of Divine Mercy
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM Virgin of Guadalupe Celebration (Mass 6:00 PM)

Tuesday, December 13th

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 14th

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 15th

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

Friday, December 16th

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

Saturday, December 17th

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 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**Lectores:** Angel Ventura y Lulu Landaverde**December 17th 2022****Lectors:** George Trevison & Dolly Hurtig**EMHC:** Slade Richard and Bob Rorie**Altar Servers:** Cedric, Kevin and Peter Serio**December 18th, 2022****Lectors:** Ryan and Lorelei Freling**EMHC:** Thomas Rogers, Gary Kennedy, Jim Martin and Rodney Manning**Altar Servers:** Brennan & Matthew Jackson, Kaejha Stewart**Lectores:** Javier Ramirez y Ilda Solis**Mass Intentions****Saturday December 10th** For the Parishioners of Saint Thomas Aquinas**Sunday December 11th** Maria Concepcion Leon Lopez +
(by Juana Melendez)**Tuesday December 13th** Gloria Cantrell +
(by Diane Taylor)**Wednesday December 14th** Claudia Mitchel
(by Ninfa Mitchel)

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/>

ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE 2022**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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY*Weekend of November 26/November 27***General Sunday Collection** \$6,080.00*Thank you for continued and generous support!***St. Vincent de Paul
Third Sunday of Advent**

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us. **Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.**

**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.



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. 11 Community Gathering – Christmas Play and Pancakes, No sacrament classes, or small groups

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

SMALL GROUPS

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,
Contact Bridget Skinner, bdw015@gmail.com



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.



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!

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.



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>



BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University

Christmas Cheer!



Pancake Dinner (Nov. 15). Both students and Fr. Kevin working hard making pancakes, bacon, and eggs.



The craziness of Winter Quarter has begun! Where we have breaks every three weeks and the students' sense of time is shattered.

This week we ramp our Christmas cheer by having our annual Christmas and White Elephant party!

We are also giving back to our community by our Life Tree for Life Choices here in Ruston!

Weekly ACTStivities

Monday

- * GBM meeting 7pm

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

- * Bible Study 7pm

Friday:

- * Guys & Girls Group 7pm

Saturday:

- * Christmas/ White Elephant Party 7pm

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

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.

ACTS

OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
Adoration • Community • Theology • Service
Not just a retreat...a Way of Life!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our next Men's ACTS Retreat is scheduled for February 16-19, 2023 at the Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, LA. Registration is open! The registration form can be found at the link below.

https://mcusercontent.com/0a05be742765a263d354d169b/files/9ac77371-3f03-3d9f-a68a-73e7cb653fc5/Men_s_February_Registration_2023.pdf

Note: All registration forms must be mailed to the address listed on the form. The registration deadline is **December 20, 2022**.

Grace and Peace in Christ,
CORE
ACTS of NELA

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



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 Group

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

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



Apareció entonces en el cielo una figura prodigiosa:

una mujer envuelta por el sol, con la luna bajo sus pies y con una corona de doce estrellas en la cabeza.

Apocalipsis 12:1

© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.



A great sign appeared in the sky,

a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Revelation 12:1

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December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

THE ONE FOR WHOM OUR HEARTS LONG

Put yourself in the scene of today's Gospel passage. John the Baptist is in prison. He has heard stories of what Jesus is doing, and wants reassurance that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. John's disciples and those who surrounded Jesus were faithful Jews who would have known Isaiah's prophecies by heart. God would send One who would bring sight to the blind, healing to those who were ill, salvation to all who longed to know God's mercy and peace. Jesus' response to the disciples' question rings as powerfully in our ears today as it surely did for the people who were with him that day. His actions are precisely those that the people had been told to expect. Jesus is the One for whom the people have been patiently yet anxiously waiting, like the farmer who waits for the fruits of his labor. Jesus is the One for whom our hearts long.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — The Lord saves us when he comes (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Saint Teresa's Bookmark

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing;
God only is changeless.
Patience gains all things.
Who has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.
—Saint Teresa of Ávila

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlatzin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration in Tlatelolco, Mexico. The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name, asking him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga to request that a shrine be erected there at the site of the apparition, in Tepeyac, so as to share her love and compassion for all believers. Juan Diego did so, but the archbishop did not believe him, demanding proof of his story and of the Lady's identity. He returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She showed him Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his *tilma* (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his *tilma* to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a *mestiza*, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?
It has feet to go to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has ears to hear
the sighs and sorrows of others.
—St. Augustine

JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE

Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it.
—William Penn

11 de diciembre de 2022

Tercer Domingo de Adviento

AQUEL QUE NUESTRO CORAZÓN ANHELA

Ponte en la escena del pasaje del Evangelio de hoy. Juan el Bautista está en la cárcel. Ha oído hablar de lo que hace Jesús y quiere asegurarse de que Jesús es el Mesías tan esperado. Los discípulos de Juan y los que rodeaban a Jesús eran judíos fieles que conocían de memoria las profecías de Isaías. Dios enviaría a uno que daría la vista a los ciegos, la curación a los enfermos y la salvación a todos los que anhelaban conocer la misericordia y la paz de Dios. La respuesta de Jesús a la pregunta de los discípulos resuena hoy tan poderosamente en nuestros oídos como seguramente lo hizo para la gente que estaba con él aquel día. Sus acciones son precisamente las que la gente esperaba. Jesús es Aquel a quien la gente ha estado esperando pacientemente y con ansiedad, como el agricultor que espera los frutos de su trabajo. Jesús es aquel a quien nuestros corazones anhelan.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — ¡Estén fuertes, no teman! Su Dios viene a salvarlos. Los redimidos del Señor serán corona-dos con alegría eterna (Isaías 35:1-6a, 10).

Salmo — El Señor nos salva cuando viene (Salmo 146 [145]).

Segunda lectura — Sean también pacientes y valientes porque la venida del Señor está cerca (Santiago 5:7-10).

Evangelio — “¿Eres tú el que debe venir o tenemos que esperar a otro?” Jesús les contestó, “Vayan y cuéntenle a Juan lo que han visto y oído” (Mateo 11:2-11).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Confiar en Dios

Nada te turbe, nada te espante,
todo se pasa, Dios no se marcha;
la paciencia todo lo alcanza.
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta;
sólo Dios basta.
—Santa Teresa de Ávila

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (12 de diciembre)

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas, se apareció por primera vez a Cuauhtlatotzin (Juan Diego) el 9 de diciembre de 1531 aunque se dirigía a una celebración eucarística en Tlatelolco, México. La Virgen se dirigió a él por su nombre indígena, pidiéndole que fuera al palacio del arzobispo Zumárraga para solicitar que se erigiera allí un santuario en el lugar de la aparición, en el Tepeyac, para compartir su amor y compasión con todos los creyentes. Juan Diego lo hizo, pero el arzobispo no le creyó, exigiendo pruebas de su historia y de la identidad de la Señora. Volvió a la Virgen a diario, y el 12 de diciembre le transmitió la petición de pruebas del arzobispo. Ella le mostró rosas castellanas que florecían allí a través del suelo pedregoso a pesar del frío del invierno. Él recogió las flores y las llevó en su *tilma* (manto) hasta el arzobispo. Cuando desplegó su *tilma* para presentar las rosas, ¡la imagen de María quedó impresa en el manto! Su faja azul y la flor sobre su vientre eran símbolos aztecas tradicionales de embarazo y nueva vida. Pero sus rasgos eran los de una *mestiza*, indicando una herencia mixta azteca-europea. Así, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe sigue siendo el icono perdurable de la unidad en la diversidad, el fruto de nuestro único bautismo en Jesús, su Hijo.

VEN, SEÑOR

Ven, Señor, a salvarnos, ven a dar libertad.
Abre, Señor, nuestros ojos, trae luz a la oscuridad.
Eres la luz del mundo que ilumina el caminar.
Muéstranos el camino por el desierto hacia la paz.
—Pedro Rubalcava,

VIGILANDO Y ESPERANDO

En su amor, Cristo nos concede ahora
prepararnos con alegría al misterio de su nacimiento,
para encontrarnos así, cuando llegue,
velando en oración y cantando su alabanza.
—Adaptado del *Misal Romano*, Prefacio II de Adviento

JUSTICIA Y OBEDIENCIA

La justicia es el seguro que tenemos para nuestra vida, y la obediencia es el costo que pagamos por él. —William Penn

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270