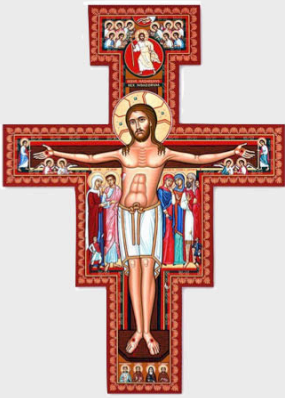


DECEMBER 18TH, 2022 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY

of Advent



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

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
<u>December 19th</u>	Barbara Aguirre 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
<u>December 26th</u>	Bryan Lopez 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 18th**

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

Monday, December 19^h

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

Tuesday, December 20th

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 21st

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

Thursday, December 22nd

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

Friday, December 23rd

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

Saturday, December 24th

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

December 24th 2022

Lectors: John Allen and Samantha Groce

EMHC: Carol Mercier, Elaine Johnson, Paul Jackson & John R Serio

Altar Servers:

Midnight Mass:

Lectors:

EMHC:

December 25th, 2022

Lectors: Paul Jackson and Jim Martin

EMHC: Gary Kennedy, Tom Bishop, Larry Mullens and Mary Carol Vidrine

Altar Servers: Maggie & Georgia Rogers

Lectores: Karyn Lopez & Evelina Lopez

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

Weekend of December 3/December 4

General Sunday Collection \$5,923.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

St. Vincent de Paul

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God. **Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."**



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

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

Claudia Michel
Leopoldo Michel
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



Saturday December 17th

Bernadette Bennett +
(by Barbara Lewis)

Sunday December 18th

Marty Doiron +
(by Paula Martin)

For the Parishioners of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Wednesday December 21st

Gloria Cantrell +
(by Diane Taylor)

Thursday December 22nd

Gloria Cantrell +
(by Mary Carol Vidrine)

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/>



SUNDAYS AT A GLANCE – December Faith Formation Schedule

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

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento – 18 de diciembre de 2022

“Cuándo José despertó hizo todo lo que el Ángel del Señor le dirigió.” ¿Está usted orando atentamente para descubrir su vocación en Cristo? ¿Puede ser que Él lo está invitando al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada? Comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones: fathermangum@yahoo.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2022

“When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Peter in the Office of Vocations: fathermangum@yahoo.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.



ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE 2022

December 17 (Saturday) - Joshua & Heidi Adams Family
December 18 (Sunday) Louis & Elise Reis Family
December 18 (Spanish Mass) Margarita Castillo and Family



BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University

ACTS for Advent to Christmas



The ACTS Girls' Group recently got together to make and decorate Christmas themed cookies.



The annual ACTS Christmas party really prepared everyone for Christmas!

Now with all the students back home for the holidays, ACTS is preparing plenty of events to kick off 2023!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Weekly ACTStivities

Wednesday:

- * Bible Study 6:30am
- * Mass 8pm

Thursday:

- * Bible Study 7pm

Friday:

- * Guys' and Girls' Retreats

Saturday:

- * Guys' and Girls' Retreats

Sunday:

- * Hospitality Sunday 8pm

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



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
— Saint Ignatius of Loyola

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Las Posadas (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these *posadas* were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM

GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

—Anonymous

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

—Charles Dickens

18 de diciembre, 2022

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

DIOS QUIERE SER UNO CON NOSOTROS

Hasta dónde llega Dios para amarnos y salvarnos. Piensa en la circunstancia más descabellada que puedas concebir. Eso parece ser lo que el Señor le dice a Ajaz en la primera lectura de hoy. "Una virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo, y le pondrá el nombre de Emmanuel". No sólo la idea de que una virgen conciba es incomprensible en la época de Ajaz, sino que también lo sería el concepto de que Dios quiera estar con nosotros, como indica el nombre Emmanuel. Y, sin embargo, esto es lo que celebramos en la Encarnación: Dios quiere ser uno con nosotros hasta tal punto que vino a estar con nosotros en un hijo nacido de una virgen, la Santísima Virgen María. Sin embargo, hay más en esta historia que estos sucesos sorprendentes y extravagantes. Dios quiere ser uno con nosotros tan profundamente que se asocia con nosotros para dar a conocer su presencia.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — La señal del Señor es que la virgen estará embarazada y dará a luz un hijo varón (Isaías 7:10-14).

Salmo — El rey de gloria vendrá (Salmo 24 [23]).

Segunda lectura — Jesús, descendiente de David biológicamente, fue establecido el Hijo de Dios en poder. (Romanos 1:1-7).

Evangelio — María, la comprometida de José, quedó embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo (Mateo 1:18-24).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Oración para Pedir Generosidad

Oh Dios mío, enséñame a ser generoso
para servirte como mereces ser servido.
Dar sin considerar el costo,
luchar sin miedo a ser herido,
trabajar sin buscar descanso,
y dedicarme sin esperar recompensa.
Sabiendo que
estoy haciendo tu santa voluntad.
—San Ignacio de Loyola

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

Las Posadas (16-24 de diciembre)

De las muchas tradiciones latinoamericanas para celebrar el Adviento y la Navidad, las posadas parecen ser las mejor conocidas en los Estados Unidos. Tienen su origen en la última mitad del siglo XVIII cuando las estrepitosas *Misas de Aguinaldo* dejaron de ser celebradas en México. Para reemplazar esas *Misas* los laicos decidieron celebrar en sus casas tomando lo que habían visto dramatizado en los templos, el recorrido de los inmigrantes galileos, José y María de Nazaret mientras buscaban posada en Belén de Judea. Como las "Antífonas O" de la liturgia oficial estas posadas llegaron a ser celebradas nueve noches consecutivas.

El recorrido de José y María recordado por las posadas lamentablemente sigue todos los días en los pasos temerosos y cansados de tantos inmigrantes en este país. Al igual que la Sagrada Familia, familias latinoamericanas continúan buscando hospedaje con la esperanza de dar a luz una nueva vida para sus hijos/as. Desgraciadamente, muchos estadounidenses se portan como la gente de Belén, prefieren cerrar la puerta en la cara a los inmigrantes que darles la bienvenida. Tal vez por esto las posadas han tomado tanta importancia entre los latinos en los Estados Unidos porque conocemos en carne propia lo que José y María experimentaron hace dos mil años. Hay que preguntarse, ¿cuándo cambiarán los corazones de los seres humanos? ¿Cuándo abriremos las puertas del corazón a nuestro Dios inmigrante?

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Gl, OFM

AJUSTAR CUENTAS

El único con el que debes tratar de ajustar cuentas es con aquél que te ha ayudado.

—Anónimo

NIÑOS EN LA NAVIDAD

Es bueno ser niños algunas veces, y nunca mejor que durante la Navidad.

—Charles Dickens

FILLER PAGE

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270