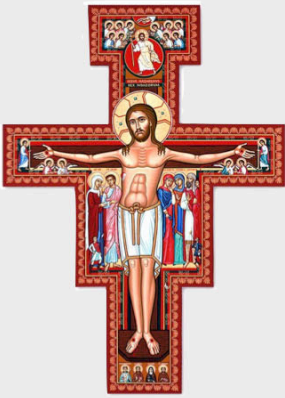


DECEMBER 25TH, 2022 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



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

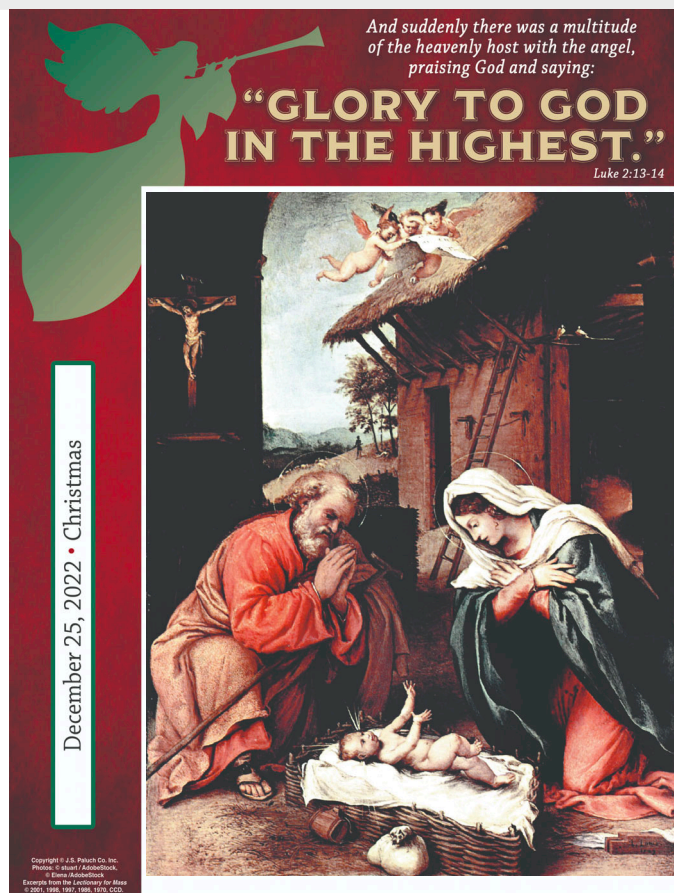
Please call Church Office SIX MONTHS in advance to schedule

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>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 25th**

9:30 AM - Sunday Mass
1:30 PM - Misa en Español
7:00 PM - NO Mass

Monday, December 26^h

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

Tuesday, December 27th

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 28th

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

Thursday, December 29th

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

Friday, December 30th

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

Saturday, January 1st

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 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

Lectors: Karyn Lopez & Evelina Lopez

December 31st 2022

Lectors: Dolly Hurtig and George Trevison

EMHC: Bob Rorie and Mary Carol Vidrine

Altar Servers: Cedric, Kevin and Peter Serio

January 1st, 2022

Lectors: Bruce Hampton and AJ Barbiero

EMHC: Emily Chartier, Gary Kennedy, Elaine Johnson, Tom Bishop

Altar Servers: Josie and Ramona Bishop, Bailey Reger



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

Miriam Bishop
Charles Bourgeois
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



STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

Weekend of December 10/December 11

General Sunday Collection \$13,987.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

St. Vincent de Paul **Christmas Day**

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, hearing the words of the angel, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy". Today and throughout the new year, may we take care of our suffering brothers and sisters, bringing hope, not fear.

In the month of December, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the spirit of Christmas to those who are suffering, by assisting families, providing food, gifts, and utility and rent bills.

Please mail checks to: SVDP P.O. Box 2462, Ruston, LA 71273



Saturday December 24th

For the Parishioners of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday December 25^h

Sanders Family +
(by Barbara Lewis)

Thompson Family +
(by Barbara Lewis)

Tuesday December 27th

Sandra Gass +
(by John & Beth Buske)

Wednesday December 28th

Gloria Cantrell +
(by Mary Carol Vidrine)

Thursday December 29th

Linda Joyce Travillion +
(by Michelle McCumber)

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/>



Christmas Break Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Faith Formation for sacrament classes and Family of Faith will resume on January 8.

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

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Thank you to all the volunteer leaders and parents who made the Christmas Play a success. The children did a wonderful job reminding us of the birth of our Lord Jesus. A big thank you goes out to the Men's Club for cooking the pancake breakfast. Thank you to the Hospitality Team for decorating and serving. Thank you to STAY for donating some Christmas-themed decorations.



ACTS

OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

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

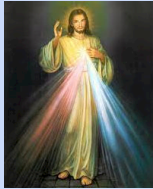
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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/0a05bc742765a263d354d169b/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 NE LA



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 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.



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord – December 25, 2022

“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Father's love as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, contact Fr. Peter in the Office of Vocations: fathermangum@yahoo.com

Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor – 25 de diciembre de 2022

“Él dio el poder de hacerse los niños de Dios.” Si usted piensa que puede ser llamado a compartir el amor del Padre como sacerdote, diácono o en la vida consagrada, comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones: 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.



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



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.

December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**WHAT ALL THE WAITING HAS BEEN FOR**

Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalms — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**Prayer at the Manger: With the Shepherds**

Your Good News was sung by angels
to these lowly ones in the night.
Look on us in our lowliness.

Let us rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ,
now and forever. Amen.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH**Christmas Time**

The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine.

LOVE

Let those who never loved before,
love now:
Let those who always loved,
love the more.
—Anonymous

LEARNED AT HOME

The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.
—Henry Drummond

WINTER WILD

It was winter wild
While the Heav'n-born child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies.
—John Milton, *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

25 de diciembre de 2022

La Natividad del Señor (Navidad)**PARA QUÉ HA SERVIDO TODA LA ESPERA**

Las lecturas de hoy son tan familiares para la mayoría de nosotros como los villancicos que cantamos y los anuncios publicitarios que abruma estas fiestas. A menudo la Navidad nos encuentra cansados, luchando con los preparativos y las expectativas. Lo que realmente queremos sentir es alegría y paz. El estrés de la preparación, de la espera, se refleja tanto en Isaías como en la carta de Pablo a Tito. Lucas nos habla del agotamiento que sintieron María y José: una joven esposa embarazada y su marido, obligados a viajar justo cuando ella está a punto de dar a luz, incapaces incluso de encontrar una habitación donde alojarse. Debíó de ser miserable. Deben haber tenido miedo. En medio de este agotamiento, miseria y miedo, nace un niño, se da un Hijo. El mundo se llena entonces de luz y esperanza, de alegría y de paz. En ese momento ellos, y nosotros, sabemos para qué ha servido toda la espera.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Verá la tierra entera la salvación que viene de nuestro Dios (Isaías 52:7-10).

Salmo — El mundo entero ha visto la salvación de Dios (Salmo 98 [97]).

Segunda lectura — Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su Hijo, la imagen fiel de su ser (Hebreos 1:1-6).

Evangelio — El Verbo se hizo carne; y todos recibimos de él en una sucesión de gracias sin número (Juan 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA**Oración en el Pesebre: con los Pastores**

La Buena Nueva fue anunciada por los ángeles
a estos humildes en la noche.
Míranos en nuestra humildad.

Alegrémonos de la Buena Nueva de Cristo,
ahora y siempre. Amén.

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE**Tiempo de Navidad**

Todas las fiestas que componen el tiempo de Navidad iluminan, a su manera, el misterio fundamental de la Encarnación, que constituye el núcleo de este tiempo sagrado. Cada una de las celebraciones arroja su propia luz sobre nuestra convicción de que, en el nacimiento de Jesús, la tierra y el cielo se han unido para nuestra salvación. Las fiestas de la Sagrada Familia, de María la Madre de Dios, de la Epifanía y del Bautismo del Señor tienen sus propias historias particulares. Pero se han unido en un único flujo estacional que nos invita a rastrear los significados de la Encarnación desde múltiples perspectivas. Al seguir los sucesivos significados del nacimiento de Jesús, su participación en la vida familiar, el significado de la maternidad de María, la importancia de la visita de los Magos y el comienzo del ministerio público de Jesús se nos invita a explorar de manera cada vez más profunda la asombrosa verdad de que Jesús ha compartido completamente nuestra experiencia humana, se ha hecho verdaderamente uno con nosotros, plenamente humano, aunque sigue siendo plenamente divino.

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AMOR

Los que nunca amaron antes,
que amen ahora:
Los que siempre han amado,
que amen aún más.
—Anónimo

EDUCADOS EN CASA

La mente de Cristo se aprende en la familia. La fuerza de la personalidad se puede adquirir en el trabajo, pero la belleza de la personalidad se aprende en la familia.
—Henry Drummond

INVIERNO CRUDO

En un invierno crudo
el niño nacido de los Cielos
yace humildemente envuelto en el pesebre rústico.
—John Milton, *La Mañana del Nacimiento de Cristo*

Celebración a Nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe



200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270