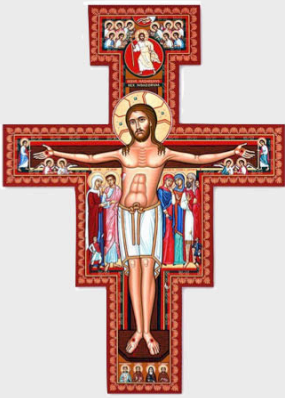


JANUARY 1ST, 2023 | SOLEMNITY OF MARY



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

January 1, 2023
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The shepherds
went in haste to
Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph,

and the infant
lying in the manger.

Luke 2:16

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>January 1st</u>	Wayne Skipper Michael Langiulli Dolly Garcia
<u>January 2nd</u>	Carmen Trevison Ethan Moreno
<u>January 3rd</u>	Atilano Garcia Martinez Stephanie Garcia
<u>January 4th</u>	Oscar Hannibal
<u>January 5th</u>	Ramona Bishop Juana Melendez
<u>January 7th</u>	Josie Bishop Ashley Michelle Landaverde
<u>January 10th</u>	Yanney Hernandez
<u>January 11th</u>	Olivia Roger
<u>January 12th</u>	David Broussard Melissa Jackson Kaitin Corcia Harryn Lopez
<u>January 13th</u>	J.M. Lanning
<u>January 14th</u>	Brennan Jackson Marcie Tucker
<u>January 15th</u>	Sandy Freeman
<u>January 16th</u>	Juana Maria Leon Jaiden Langiulli
<u>January 17th</u>	Paul Kabbes Jerry Berg
<u>January 18th</u>	Linda Oakley
<u>January 20th</u>	Christine Hanna
<u>January 21st</u>	Rose Kitishian John Mark Adams Jose Maria Garcia
<u>January 22nd</u>	Benjamin Denny Hayden Frost
<u>January 24th</u>	Veronica Cregut Cindy Bimle
<u>January 25th</u>	Fr. Kevin Mues
<u>January 26th</u>	Ryan Corcia
<u>January 27th</u>	Riley Oakley
<u>January 28th</u>	William Slusher Zane Morris
<u>January 31st</u>	Pedro Derosa

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, January 1st**

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

Monday, January 2nd

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

Tuesday, January 3rd

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, January 4th

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

Thursday, January 5th

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

Friday, January 6th

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

Saturday, January 7th

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 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

January 7th 2022

Lectors: Samantha Groce and Christie Weeks

EMHC: George Trevison and Slade Richard

Altar Servers: Jack, Jessie and Julie Groce

January 1st, 2022

Lectors: Thomas Rogers and Stacey Denny

EMHC: Rodney Manning, Paul Jackson, Mary Ghongkedze and Larry Mullens

Altar Servers: Brad and Paige Denny



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

Quintana Atkins
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
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 17/December 18

General Sunday Collection \$34,341.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

St. Vincent de Paul

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Today is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Like Mary may we always treasure the events in our life and reflect on them in our heart. Please remember to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2023 so that together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering.

May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours!

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



Saturday December 31st

Marty Doiron +
(by Paula Martin)

Sunday January 1st

For the Parishioners of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday January 3rd

Linda Joyce Travillion +
(by Michelle McCumber)

Wednesday January 4th

Sandra Gass +
(by John & Beth Buske)

Thursday January 5th

Sandra Gass +
(by Pauline Phi)

Friday January 6th

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/>



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



Around the Diocese

Events and News

Volunteers needed

Jan 2023: Men's Retreat

Jan 2023: Father Robert Spitzer Coming to Cathedral

Feb 2023: Fete for Life

Feb 2023: Couples Retreat

April 2023: Bingo on the Delta

June 2023: Holy Land Pilgrimage

July 2023: Camp Little Flower

Ongoing: Eucharistic Revival

Job Openings

Catholic Center:

Director of Marriage and Family Life

Information Technology "IT" support

Editor of Publications and Public Relations Director

Diocesan-wide

Bookkeeper

Director of Development

Cafeteria Workers

For more information, follow the link:

<https://www.dioshpt.org/job-opportunities>

Send resumes to:

Diocese of Shreveport

Attn: Human Resources

3500 Fairfield Ave

Shreveport, LA 71104

Or email Deacon Michael Straub at

mstraub@dioshpt.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**

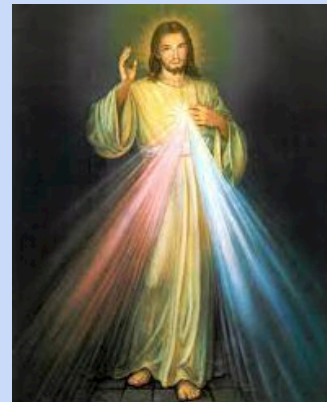
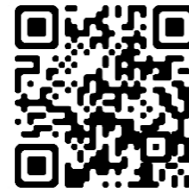
Ministry to the Homebound

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.



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!

Solemnidad de la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de Dios – 1 de enero de 2023

"Dios ha enviado el Espíritu de Su Hijo a nuestros corazones." Si el Espíritu de Jesús le invita a amarlo y a servirle como sacerdote, diácono o en la vida consagrada, comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones: fathermangum@yahoo.com

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God – January 1, 2023

"God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts." If the Spirit of Jesus is prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, contact Fr. Peter in the Office of Vocations: fathermangum@yahoo.com

January 1, 2023

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

BLESSINGS

Today's readings include another account of the story of Jesus' birth. The reading from the book of Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God's Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God's Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm — May God be merciful and bless us (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Resolve to Spread God's Mercy and Peace

Imagine: two New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year, and today the secular New Year 2023 begins. In today's Gospel, everyone who heard it was amazed by the story the shepherds told of the angels' message regarding the child. Mary herself continued to reflect on all these things in her heart. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, and COVID not yet entirely in the rear-view mirror, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2023, let our New Year's resolution be to live for others, as Mary did, a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.

TIME

Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.
—Benjamin Franklin

PASSIONS

We should employ our passions in the service of life, not spend life in the service of our passions.
—Richard Steele

NEW YEAR

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul.
—G. K. Chesterton

1 de enero de 2023

Santa María, Madre de Dios

BENDICIONES

Las lecturas de hoy incluyen otro relato de la historia del nacimiento de Jesús. La lectura del libro de los Números nos recuerda que somos bendecidos. Se nos mira con bondad y gracia. El Salmo y Gálatas nos recuerdan las bendiciones concedidas a través del Hijo de Dios. Lucas nos habla de nuestra última bendición, que María, un ser humano como nosotros, dio a luz a un niño que es el Hijo de Dios. María, una joven madre, observa todo lo que ocurre en torno al nacimiento de su hijo. Escucha cómo los pastores traen mensajes de los ángeles, un mensaje que ella también recibió de un ángel, sobre su hijo. Sin embargo, María permanece en silencio. Guarda para sí todas estas noticias sobre su hijo. Reflexiona sobre todas estas experiencias. Lo único que comparte es el nombre de su hijo, Jesús, un nombre que se le dio antes de que fuera concebido. Su silencio nos hace preguntarnos si es así como se responde a una bendición tan grande.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Que el Señor te mire con benevolencia y te conceda la paz (Números 6:22-27).

Salmo — Que Dios sea misericordioso y nos bendiga (Salmo 67 [66]).

Segunda lectura — Dios envió a sus corazones el Espíritu de su Hijo, que clama "¡Abbá!" (Gálatas 4:4-7)

Evangelio — Los pastores se volvieron a sus campos, alabando y glorificando a Dios por todo cuanto habían visto y oído (Lucas 2:16-21).

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

Resuelve difundir la misericordia y la paz de Dios

Imagínate: ¡dos celebraciones de Año Nuevo en poco más de un mes! A finales de noviembre, el Adviento dio inicio al nuevo año litúrgico, y hoy comienza el Año Nuevo secular 2023. En el Evangelio de hoy, todos los que lo escucharon se quedaron asombrados por la historia que los pastores contaron del mensaje de los ángeles sobre el niño. La propia María seguía reflexionando sobre todas estas cosas en su corazón. Con las persecuciones religiosas, los conflictos internacionales y nacionales, las dificultades de nuestros familiares y amigos, y el COVID que aún no ha pasado por el retrovisor, por no hablar de nuestros propios problemas personales, ¡cuánto necesita nuestro mundo a Jesús al comenzar otro Año Nuevo envuelto en el misterio! Mientras rezamos para que la misericordia de Dios envuelva a nuestro mundo y nos abraza a cada uno de nosotros en 2023, que nuestro propósito de Año Nuevo sea vivir para los demás, como hizo María, un canal de la misericordia de Dios y un instrumento de la paz de Cristo.

TIEMPO

No malgastes tu tiempo, porque es lo que constituye la vida.
—Benjamin Franklin

PASIONES

Debemos poner nuestras pasiones al servicio de la vida, y no malgastar nuestra vida en servir a nuestras pasiones.
—Richard Steele

AÑO NUEVO

El objetivo de un año nuevo no es tener un nuevo año sino tener una nueva alma.
—G. K. Chesterton

ECHO
RETREATS

ENGAGED COUPLES

FEB. 24-26, 2023
MARYHILL RENEWAL CENTER
PINEVILLE, LA

Since 2010, thousands of lives have been changed – and now ECHO for Engaged Couples is here! This weekend gives engaged couples the chance to grow in relationship with God and each other in an environment of freedom and love. Inspired by the life and teachings of St. John Paul II, couples prepare meaningfully to enter into a sacramental marriage in the context of authentic community with other couples and mentors. Dynamic talks, activities, discussions, prayer, sacraments, live music, art, and quality time with your fiancé...this is a weekend like no other!

Details and registration:

ECHORETREATS.COM

*If you are a mentor couple, you may attend with the engaged couple that you are mentoring!



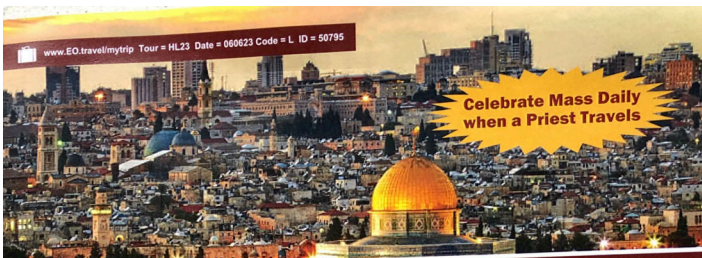
FÊTE FOR LIFE

BANQUET FOR MARY'S HOUSE

Featuring keynote speaker
Leah Darrow

TABLES AND TICKETS ON SALE NOW

FEBRUARY 7
Bossier Civic Center

www.EO.travel/mytrip Tour = HL23 Date = 060623 Code = L ID = 50795


Celebrate Mass Daily when a Priest Travels

Join Rev. Michael K. Thang'wa, FMH, Pastor of Jesus, Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Deacon Tom Deal of Jesus, Good Shepherd Catholic Church,
Father Mark Watson of the
Saint Mary of the Pines and Sacred Heart of Jesus
And Tour Guide, Father Peter Vasko, OFM


Tour guide to Popes and Presidents
President of the Franciscan Society for the Preservation of Holy Sites (Terra Sancta)

Catholic Holy Land


June 6 - 16, 2023



Host
Rev. Michael K. Thang'wa, FMH




Host
Father Mark Watson



Host
Deacon Tom Deal

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Pilgrimage with Purpose
John J. Morris, III
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(318) 325-3741



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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 Flounoy Lucas Rd
Time: 8 AM - 1 PM | Shreveport, LA
Cost: \$25 | 71115



Diocese of Shreveport

CAMP LITTLE FLOWER

A full week of fun at Camp Bethany in Bethany, LA!
Camp Little Flower invites all kids aged 8-13 years old to join the much-awaited NEW summer camp by the Catholic Diocese of Shreveport!

July 24-28 2023

FUN FILLED with:
swimming,
canoeing,
arts and crafts,
and more!




Registration starts December 1st
email Fr. Raney at rjohnson@stmaryshreveport.com for more information!

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270