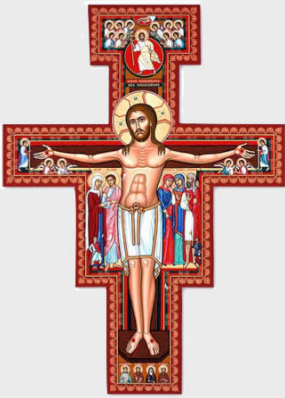


JANUARY 8TH, 2023 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



St. Thomas

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



Then they opened their treasures and offered him

GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

Matthew 2:11

January 8, 2023 • The Epiphany of the Lord

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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.

813 Carey Ave. | Ruston, Louisiana 71270 | 318-255-2870 | stthomasaquinasruston.com

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 8th**

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

Monday, January 9th

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

Tuesday, January 10th

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 11th

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

Thursday, January 12th

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

Friday, January 13th

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

Saturday, January 14th

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

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

January 14th 2022

Lectors: Mary Carol Vidrine, John Allen

EMHC: John Ryan Serio, Bob Rorie

Altar Servers: Kevin, Cedric and Peter Serio

January 15th, 2022

Lectors: Ryan and Lorelei Freling

EMHC: Lily Skylar, Colby Piatt, Thomas Rogers, Jim Martin

Altar Servers: Hannah and Brooklynn Bryan



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 24/December 25

General Sunday Collection \$22,809.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!



Saturday January 7th

Linda Joyce Travillion +
(by Michelle McCumber)

Sunday January 8th

Sandra Gass +
(by Terry Buboltz)

For the Parishioners of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday January 10th

Gloria Cantrell+
(by Mary Carol Vidrine)

Wednesday January 11th

Barbara Green
(by Michelle McCumber)

Thursday January 12th

Lue & Ester Sanders +
(by Tom & Becky Garza)

Friday January 13th

Sandra Gass+
(by Tom & Becky Garza)

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/>



Altar server training for new and current servers will be held on **Saturday, January 21st from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Families are encouraged to attend together. This will not be a drop-off training event.

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 – 6:00 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



There is now a desktop computer station available in the Joe & Roger Luffey Youth Room that is designated for completing Virtus bulletins and Protecting God's Children online training. If you need internet access to complete your monthly Virtus bulletins, you are encouraged to use this computer station. Directions on how to set up your online account will be in a binder. All adults are highly encouraged to complete a Protecting God's Children session one time and then to stay up to date with the safe environment guidelines by completing a monthly bulletin through the online Virtus personal account.

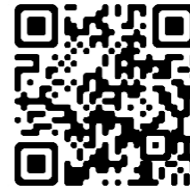
Ahora hay una estación de computadora disponible en la Sala de Jóvenes Joe & Roger Luffey que está designada para completar los boletines de Virtus y la capacitación en línea de Proteger a los niños de Dios. Si necesita acceso a Internet para completar sus boletines mensuales de Virtus, le recomendamos que utilice esta estación informática. Las instrucciones sobre cómo configurar su cuenta en línea estarán en una carpeta. Se recomienda encarecidamente a todos los adultos que completen una sesión de Protección de los Hijos de Dios una vez y luego se mantengan al día con las pautas de ambiente seguro completando un boletín mensual a través de la cuenta personal en línea de Virtus.



The annual appeal has a new name – the Catholic Service Appeal. It also has a new look...a new logo. United as the Catholic community of Northern Louisiana we have so much to offer. Please pray to know what God is asking you to offer his children in need. After a late start this year, the annual appeal is back on track to commence next month. With the hard work of a committee of pastors, deacons and parishioners from around the diocese, there are some new and, we believe, important changes to the appeal that you will come to learn. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sharing some of these changes and certainly point to the bulletin for you to learn more. Please be sure to listen and look for these announcements. As always, pray that God will work through you in your generosity of support and spirit.



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.



ACTS

OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

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

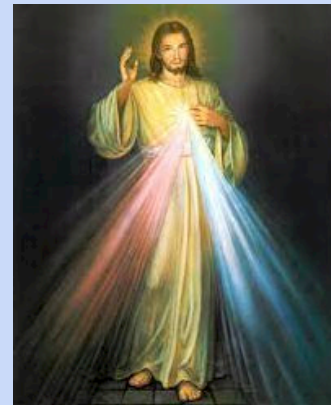
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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



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!

January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

ALL SHARE IN THE PROMISE

Picture a nativity scene in your mind's eye. The scene likely includes figures arriving on camels, some elaborately dressed, with jeweled boxes containing precious gifts. These magi arrived from distant lands to pay homage to the Christ Child. We know little about the magi, but we do know that these visitors were not Jews. They represent people of all nations who will be drawn to the Lord. "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." The Good News of Jesus cannot be limited to one people; all share in the promise of God's mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — All the nations will worship you, Lord (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Epiphany House Blessing

If you wish, you can celebrate Epiphany at home with a blessing using the initials of the magi's traditional names (Casper, Melchior, Balthasar), four crosses, and the new year's numerals.

Materials: a piece of chalk and a small container of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

Leader: In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the new year.

[20 + C + M + B + 23]

Let us pray: May Christ bless this house!

ALL: Amen!

Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water.

Living room:

Where two or three are gathered in your name, Lord, you are present. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Kitchen:

Give us this day our daily bread.

Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Dining room:

Prepare us for the heavenly banquet.

Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bedrooms:

Stay with us Lord, when night has come.

Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bathroom:

Cleanse us from all sin. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

All return to the front door to pray together.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . .

The leader sprinkles all present with holy water.

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen!

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer at the Manger: With the Magi

Let your light shine on us, O God,
as the star showed the way
to those who searched for Christ.

Fill us with wisdom;
help us walk in your ways,
now and forever. Amen

1 de enero, 2023

La Epifanía del Señor

TODOS COMPARTEN LA PROMESA

Imaginate un pesebre en tu mente. Es probable que la escena incluya figuras que llegan en camellos, algunas de ellas muy bien vestidas, con cajas de joyas que contienen preciosos regalos. Estos magos llegaron desde tierras lejanas para rendir homenaje al Niño Jesús. Sabemos poco sobre los magos, pero si sabemos que estos visitantes no eran judíos. Representan a personas de todas las naciones que serán atraídas por el Señor. "Las naciones caminarán a tu luz, y los reyes a tu resplandor". La Buena Nueva de Jesús no puede limitarse a un solo pueblo; todos comparten la promesa de la misericordia de Dios por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — ¡Levántate y brilla, Jerusalén! La gloria del Señor amaneció sobre ti (Isaías 60:1-6).

Salmo — Todas las naciones te adorarán, Señor (Salmo 72 [71]).

Segunda lectura — Los gentiles son coherederos, socios en la promesa en Jesucristo (Efesios 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Evangelio — "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que ha nacido?" (Mateo 2:1-12).

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

Bendición de la casa en la Epifanía

Si lo desea, puede celebrar la Epifanía en casa con una bendición utilizando las iniciales de los nombres tradicionales de los magos (Gaspar, Melchor, Baltasar), cuatro cruces y los números de año nuevo.

Materiales: un trozo de tiza y un pequeño recipiente con agua bendita. Reúnanse en la puerta principal con sus familiares, amigos y tal vez algunos vecinos.

Guía: En el (+) nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. Amén.

Marcamos este portal con cuatro cruces y los números del nuevo año.

[20 + G + M + B + 23]

Oremos: ¡Que Cristo bendiga esta casa!

TODOS: ¡Amén!

Todas las habitaciones de la casa se rocían con agua bendita.

Sala:

Donde dos o tres están reunidos en tu nombre, Señor, tú estás presente. Bendice esta habitación, oh Señor.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

Cocina:

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Bendice a esta habitación, oh Señor.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

Comedor:

Prepáranos para el banquete celestial.

Bendice esta habitación, oh Señor.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

Habitaciones:

Quédate con nosotros Señor, cuando llegue la noche.

Bendice esta habitación, oh Señor.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

El baño

Límpianos de todo pecado. Bendice este baño, oh Señor.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

Todos vuelven a la puerta principal para orar juntos.

Guía: Oremos como Jesús nos enseñó:

Padre Nuestro . . .

El que está guiando la oración rocía a todos los presentes con agua bendita.

Bendice a esta familia en todos los días por venir, Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu Santo, por los siglos de los siglos.

TODOS: ¡Amén!

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Oración en el Pesebre: con los Reyes Magos

Que tu luz nos ilumine, oh, Dios,
como la estrella mostró el camino
a quienes buscaban a Cristo.

Llénanos de sabiduría;
ayúdanos a caminar por tus senderos,
ahora y siempre. Amén

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.



Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord – January 8, 2023

“And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him.” God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy and worship Him through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Peter in the Office of Vocations: fathermangum@yahoo.com

Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor – 8 de enero de 2023

“Y después que entraron en la casa, vieron al Niño con su madre María; y se postraron y le adoraron.” Dios ha elegido a cada persona en Cristo para una vocación particular. Si Él puede estar llamándote a ser santo y adorarlo a través de una vocación al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada, comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones: fathermangum@yahoo.com

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!

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

Dollar Lunch

Come support the E. Donn Piatt Catholic Student Center

Wednesday January 11, 2023
from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Panda Express Fundraiser

January 13, 2023 10:30 am-9:30 pm

For every order ACTS will be receive 50% of sales!

FÊTE FOR LIFE
BANQUET FOR MARY'S HOUSE

Featuring keynote speaker
Leah Darrow

TABLES AND TICKETS ON SALE NOW

FEBRUARY 7
Bossier Civic Center

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!

CAMP LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC DIocese OF SHREVEPORT

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