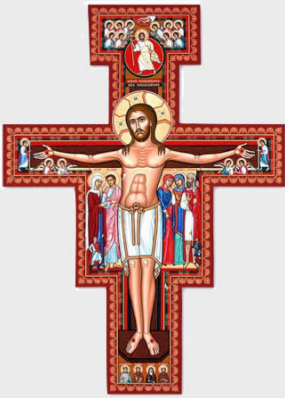


FEBRUARY 12TH, 2023 | 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

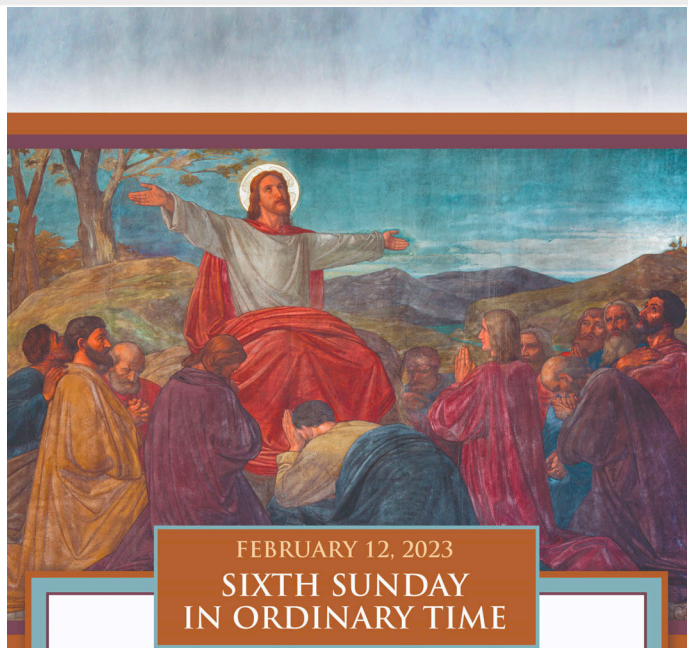
Please call Church Office SIX MONTHS in advance to schedule

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



FEBRUARY 12, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

*“Amen, I say to you,
until heaven and earth pass away,
not the smallest letter or the
smallest part of a letter
will pass from the law.”*

MATTHEW 5:18

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>February 1st</u>	Michael Hinton
<u>February 2nd</u>	Libby Manning Aylmer Rainwater
<u>February 4th</u>	Wyatt Rust
<u>February 6th</u>	Iris Reis Kaejha Stewart
<u>February 7th</u>	Ralph Pettijohn Francisco Negrete
<u>February 8th</u>	Charlie Rogers Cathy Riggan
<u>February 9th</u>	Christi Faulker Martin Aviles
<u>February 12th</u>	Margaret Stanton Roan Sutherland Britney Aguirre Gail Lindsey
<u>February 13th</u>	Matthew Bryan
<u>February 15th</u>	Roland Baudoin
<u>February 17th</u>	Elizabeth Rodriguez
<u>February 18th</u>	Margie Strickler
<u>February 19th</u>	Melissa Hernandez
<u>February 20th</u>	Linda Viator Samantha Shuff Dusty Rust
<u>February 21st</u>	Jesus Salazar
<u>February 22nd</u>	Gwen Barron Michelle McCumber
<u>February 24th</u>	Cindy Bimle
<u>February 25th</u>	Cesario Gonzalez
<u>February 28th</u>	Adams Perot

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, February 12th**

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

Monday, February 13th

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

Tuesday, February 14th

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, February 15th

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

Thursday, February 16th

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

Friday, February 17th

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

Saturday, February 18th

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



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.

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.



Ministry Schedule**February 11th 2023****Lectors:** Pam Allen and Samantha Groce**EMHC:** John Ryan Serio and Mary Carol Vidrine**Altar Servers:** Cedric, Kevin & Peter Serio**February 12th, 2023****Lectors:** Ryan and Lorelei Freling**EMHC:** Paul Jackson, Gary Kennedy, Elaine Johnson and Jim Martin**Altar Servers:** Brad and Paige Denny**February 18th 2023****Lectors:** Christie Weeks and Mary Carol Vidrine**EMHC:** Diane Singletary and Bob Rorie**Altar Servers:** Jack, Jessie and Julie Groce**February 19th, 2023****Lectors:** Stacey Denny and Paul Jackson**EMHC:** Gary Kennedy, Larry Mullens, Thomas Rogers and Rodney Manning**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
Mary Lou French
Emmely Gay
Bernice Harrison
Harvey Hayes
Maureen Hinton
Johnnie Hogan
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
Polly Smith
Tyler Sorrels
Holly Hollis Star
Willie Tannerhill
Diane Theriot
Pam Turner
Kathleen "Kathy" Walter
Janice Williams



*Altar flowers donated by Tracy & Linda Oakley
in loving memory of Florian A Tylka*

**Sunday February 12th**

Por los feligreses de la parroquia de Santo Tomas

Tuesday February 7th

Sandra Belaire
(by Elise Reis)

Wednesday February 8th

Bernadette Bennett +
(by Tom & Becky Garza)

Thursday February 8th

Maggi Bourne
(by Michelle McCumber)

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

Weekend of January 28/29

General Sunday Collection \$6,779.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

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 – February Faith Formation Schedule

Feb. 12 Breakout Sunday: Confirmation A and Confirmation B - First Communion (2nd) - Adult Education Small Group - Family of Faith PreK, 1,3rd/4th, 5th/6th Clusters - High School Small Group - Men's Small Group - Women's Small Group

Feb. 19 Breakout Sunday (Faith formation will meet despite President's Day.)

Confirmation A and Confirmation B - First Communion (2nd) - Adult Education Small Group - Family of Faith PreK, 1,3rd/4th, 5th/6th Clusters - High School Small Group - Men's Small Group - Women's Small Group

Feb. 26 Breakout Sunday: Confirmation A and Confirmation B - First Communion (2nd) - SEEKERS - Adult Education Small Group - Family of Faith PreK, 1,3rd/4th, 5th/6th Clusters - High School Small Group - Men's Small Group - Women's Small Group

Feb. 26 – Confirmation B Parent Meeting @ 11:45 am – 12:15 pm (AV Room)

Parents will hear about the upcoming retreat plan. Information about sponsors and appropriate documentation for students and sponsors will be discussed. Students will get information about writing letters to Bishop Malone to request Confirmation. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting!
Youth Spring Retreat - March 25 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

OWL CENTER: All Confirmation B students, OCIA high school students, and High School Small Group students are invited to the Youth Spring Retreat. Bring your completed release forms and \$40 (cash or check) to the PSR office or to your catechist. Release forms and money are due by March 5th.

MORE RESOURCES FOR YOU - FAMILY OF FAITH

Remember to check your email the Monday following Formation Sunday for a recap video of the monthly lecture and the parent pacing guide for the month.

Want to add Liturgical Resources to you Family of Faith home experience? Subscribe for free to receive full month of activities to go with the Sunday readings. <https://sophiateachers.org/lesson-category/teaching-the-liturgical-year/> Or, view weekly readings online at <https://sophiateachers.org/liturgical/>

Family of Faith Volunteers Needed!

Catechists and security team members are needed weekly for the Family of Faith Sunday morning lessons. Please sign up on the Google form if you would like to volunteer on a rotational basis. Thank you!



Stations of the Cross

Children in grades 3rd – 6th are invited to help lead the Way of the Cross. This age group will practice during Breakout Sundays on Feb. 12 and Feb. 19. They will lead on **Friday, February 24 @ 6:00 pm** in the church.

Confirmation A (Deacon Ransom and Ms. Courtney Reger's class) will lead the Way of the Cross on **Friday, March 24 @ 6:00 pm** in the church. This class will discuss this devotion and practice during class on Sundays.

SPECIAL MEETINGS - SACRAMENTS

Feb. 26 – Confirmation B Parent Meeting @ 11:45 am – 12:15 pm (AV Room)

Parents will hear about the upcoming retreat plan. Information about sponsors and appropriate documentation for students and sponsors will be discussed. Students will get information about writing letters to Bishop Malone to request Confirmation. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting!

March 5 – First Communion and SEEKERS Parent Meeting 11:45 am – 12:15 pm

Parents of children in First Communion and SEEKERS will hear about First Reconciliation, practice for the First Communion Mass, dress code, and the reception.

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



BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University

Weekly ACTStivities



Fall Quarter Pancake Dinner. Parishioners helping out the students with cooking delicious pancakes.

It's the last week before finals!
The students are preparing and looking forward to both the Mardi Gras break and Spring Break.

Some students are also getting ready for the annual Simple House mission trip over Spring Break, where they go to Kansas City to experience the life of a missionary and tend to the homeless

Monday

* GBM meeting 7pm

Wednesday:

* Bible Study 6:30am

* Dollar Lunch 11:30am

* Freshman Crossing 7pm

Thursday:

* Bible Study 7pm

All Week:

* Finals Novena

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

Diocesan Youth Summit - March 4th

Any youth in grades 6th – 12th is invited to attend the diocesan youth event. Transportation will be picking up youth in Monroe and Ruston to send youth to the all-day event in Shreveport. Check your email for information about forms, cost, and chaperone recruitment information.

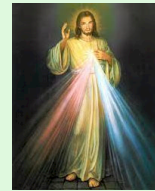
BE LONG
DIOCESAN YOUTH SUMMIT
SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2023
10 AM TO 5:30 PM

Open to grades 6-12

SPEAKERS:
Katie Prejean McGrady
Tommy McGrady

LOCATION: THE DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT CATHOLIC CENTER

REGISTRATION: \$25 PER YOUTH REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH



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.



February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE GLORY OF THE DIVINE WAY

Today's readings draw us into ageless, vibrant depths. Followers of God's law, we belong to ancient traditions. Children of God, we marvel at the freshness of creation. The Old Testament readings, from Sirach and the Psalms, celebrate the rich blessings we receive when we observe God's commands—not because we are slaves to the law, but because the law gives life in abundance. Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians confirms the glory of divine law, but warns that God's ways tend to be unpopular and misunderstood in this world. Paul speaks of the ancient wisdom of God, which is mysteriously both "hidden" and "revealed." God does not have secret codes that we earthly mortals cannot understand; in love, God reveals the glory of the divine way in Jesus. Saint Matthew's Gospel emphasizes the importance of living in God's law, enlivened by a deep and personal relationship with Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God allows us to make choices, but we are not to choose unjust or sinful things (Sirach 15:15-20).

Psalms — Happy are those who observe God's commands (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — God's wisdom is mysterious and hidden (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

Gospel — Jesus has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-37).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil. Amen.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
 On February 17 we honor the seven founding saints of the Order of the Servants of the Virgin Mary. Bonfiliius, Alexis, Manettus, Amideus, Hugh, Sostene and Buonagiunta were a group of merchants of Florence who, upon experiencing an apparition of the Blessed Virgin in 1233, renounced their businesses, left what was necessary for their families, and distributed the rest among the poor. They then dedicated themselves entirely to the veneration of the Virgin Mary, going to live on an Italian mountain, each assuming the life of a hermit—prayer, extreme fasting and penance. Sometime later, at the request of the pope's delegate, all but one were ordained priests. Brother Alexis, considering himself unworthy of the priesthood, decided to remain as a brother. They were all canonized in 1888. Their feast day, originally February 11, now falls on the 17th, the date of the death of the last of the seven founders. Brother Alexis died at the age of 110.

THE CURE

The only known cure for fear is faith.

—Lena K. Sadler

WEIGHTY

An ounce of practice is worth a pound of preaching.

—John Ray

PRESIDENTIAL GARDENING

After I die, I want it said of me that I plucked a weed and planted a flower wherever I thought a flower would grow.

—Abraham Lincoln

12 de febrero de 2023
Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

LA GLORIA DEL CAMINO DIVINO

Las lecturas de hoy nos llevan a profundidades eternas y vibrantes. Seguidores de la ley de Dios, pertenecemos a tradiciones antiguas. Hijos de Dios, nos maravillamos ante la frescura de la creación. Las lecturas del Antiguo Testamento, del Eclesiástico y de los Salmos, celebran las ricas bendiciones que recibimos cuando observamos los mandatos de Dios, no porque seamos esclavos de la ley, sino porque la ley da vida en abundancia. La carta de san Pablo a los Corintios confirma la gloria de la ley divina, pero advierte que los caminos de Dios tienden a ser impopulares e incomprensidos en este mundo. Pablo habla de la antigua sabiduría de Dios, que está misteriosamente "oculta" y "revelada". Dios no tiene códigos secretos que los mortales terrenales no podemos entender; en el amor, Dios revela la gloria del camino divino en Jesús. El Evangelio de san Mateo subraya la importancia de vivir en la ley de Dios, animada por una relación profunda y personal con Jesús.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Dios nos permite tomar decisiones, pero no debemos optar por la injusticia o el pecado (Siracide 15:15-20).

Salmo — Felices son aquellos que observan los mandamientos de Dios (Salmo 119 [118]).

Segunda lectura — La sabiduría de Dios es misteriosa y escondida (1 Corintios 2:6-10).

Evangelio — Jesús no ha venido a abolir la ley ni los profetas, sino a darles plenitud (Mateo 5:17-37).

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Padre nuestro

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
 santificado sea tu Nombre;
 venga a nosotros tu reino;
 hágase tu voluntad,
 en la tierra como en el cielo.
 Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;
 perdona nuestras ofensas,
 como también nosotros perdonamos
 a los que nos ofenden;
 no nos dejes caer en la tentación,
 y líbranos del mal. Amén.

NUESTRA FASCINANTE FE

Los siete santos fundadores de la Orden de los Siervos

El 17 de febrero honramos a los siete santos fundadores de la Orden de los Siervos de la Virgen María. Bonfiliius, Alexis, Manettus, Amideus, Hugh, Sostene y Buonagiunta eran un grupo de comerciantes de Florencia que, al experimentar una aparición de la Santísima Virgen en 1233, renunciaron a sus negocios, dejaron lo necesario para sus familias y distribuyeron el resto entre los pobres. Luego se dedicaron por completo a la veneration de la Virgen María, yendo a vivir a una montaña italiana, asumiendo cada uno la vida de un ermitaño: oración, ayuno extremo y penitencia. Tiempo después, a petición del delegado del Papa, todos menos uno fueron ordenados sacerdotes. El hermano Alexis, considerándose indigno del sacerdocio, decidió permanecer como hermano. Todos fueron canonizados en 1888. Su fiesta, originalmente el 11 de febrero, cae ahora el 17, fecha de la muerte del último de los siete fundadores. El Hermano Alexis murió a la edad de 110 años.

EL REMEDIO

El único remedio conocido para el temor es la fe.

—Lena K. Sadler

DE PESO

Una onza de práctica vale una libra de predicación.

—John Ray

JARDINERÍA PRESIDENCIAL

Cuando muera, quiero que se diga que arranqué malezas y planté flores dondequiera que pensé que podría crecer una flor.

—Abraham Lincoln



Diocese of Shreveport
CAMP LITTLE FLOWER

A full week of fun at Camp Bethany in Bethany, LA!

Register Now!

We invite all kids aged 8-13 years old to join the much-awaited NEW summer camp by the Catholic Diocese of Shreveport! FUN FILLED with swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more!


July 24-28 2023



Scan the QR code below to register!




Register for Camp online: www.dioshpt.org/camp-little-flower
Email us at camplittleflower@dioshpt.org OR
email Fr. Raney at rjohnson@stmaryshreveport.org for more information!




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 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.




Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:
In the Gospel Jesus says: "Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God." **By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you fulfill the commands of Jesus.**


Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario:
En el Evangelio Jesús dice: "El que cumpla y enseñe estos mandamientos será grande en el reino de Dios". **Con tu donación a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, ciertamente pones tu fe en acción mientras cumples los mandamientos de Jesús.**

WOMEN'S GUILD

All women of St. Thomas Aquinas are invited to the Women's Guild meeting on **Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 at noon** in the Luffey Center. Lunch is provided for a \$5 donation. Hope you can join us for this time of fellowship! For more information call 318-548-7127.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 12, 2023 - World Marriage Day
Catholics believe marriage to be a sacrament. By this we mean that the faithful love of husband and wife is a sign of Christ's lasting love for us. On this World Marriage Day, let us pray that those who are married seek to bring each other closer to heaven each day.

Sexto Domingo de Tiempo Ordinario – 12 de febrero de 2023 - Día Mundial del Matrimonio
Los católicos creen que el matrimonio es un sacramento. Con esto queremos decir que el amor fiel de marido y mujer es una señal del amor duradero de Cristo por nosotros. En este Día Mundial del Matrimonio, oremos para que los casados busquen acercarse cada día más al cielo.



The Annual appeal has a new name - **The Catholic Service Appeal**. It also has a new look... a new logo. You can see it in the bulletin today and will see it over the course of the year. United as the Catholic community of Northern Louisiana we have so much to offer.

200 for this week

MAIL TO:
813 CAREY AVENUE
RUSTON, LA 71270