

AUGUST 27TH, 2023 | 21ST 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**
Fr. Charles Ssenyondo
Deacon John Serio
Deacon Robert Ransom
Marcie Tucker (318) 255-2870 **Business Manager**
Matthew Bryan **President of Pastoral Council**
Thurston Allen **Chairman of Finance Council**
St. Vincent de Paul Society (318)255-8090



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

21^o Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Y ahora yo te digo: Tú eres Pedro, y sobre esta piedra edificaré mi Iglesia; los poderes de la muerte jamás la podrán vencer.”

Mateo 16, 18

Jesus Returning the Keys to St. Peter by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, 1821 © Diocesan

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



<u>August 1st</u>	Nora Ramachandran
	Adolfo Leon
<u>August 2nd</u>	Paola Torres
<u>August 3rd</u>	Danny Nash
<u>August 4th</u>	Anna Kate Jackson
	Heidi Morphew
	Gilberto Espinoza, Jr.
	Elizabeth Salazar
<u>August 7th</u>	Damian Nash
	Javier Ramirez
<u>August 8th</u>	Landry Tucker
<u>August 9th</u>	Erick David Alvarado Garro
<u>August 10th</u>	Maria Elena Mendez
<u>August 11th</u>	Stephanie Viator
	Rosilynn Gillum
	George Smith
<u>August 12th</u>	Beth Buske
	Nicolas Reyes
<u>August 13th</u>	Esma Smith
<u>August 15th</u>	Almario Manlutac
<u>August 16th</u>	Jonathan Roger
	Heather Jach
<u>August 17th</u>	Jerry Drewett
<u>August 18th</u>	Ginger Manuel
	Michael Gillum
<u>August 19th</u>	Ed Jacobs
	Karen Jacobs
<u>August 20th</u>	Cristina Mariano
	Fredy Lopez
<u>August 21st</u>	Allie Jo Martin
<u>August 24th</u>	Trisha Pangilinan
	Jose Hernandez
<u>August 25th</u>	Traci Maier
	Frank Cordaro
<u>August 26th</u>	Bill Tubre
	Carmen Bishop
	Kadie Frost
	Donna Serio
<u>August 27th</u>	Gene Mariano
	Larry Gomez
	Adriana Avilez Vazquez
<u>August 28th</u>	Kelly Decerbo
	Eliza Rust
	Cynthia Aillet-Murry
<u>August 29th</u>	Camila Derosa
	Lizeth Ramirez
	Thomas Hanna
<u>August 31st</u>	Ronald Barron
	Diana May

If I've missed your birthday, please email me at stacbulletin@suddenlinkmail.com so that I can add you to the master

THE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

<u>Sunday, August 27th</u>	
9:30 AM	Sunday Mass
1:30 PM	Misa en Español
<u>Monday, August 28th</u>	
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - 5:30 PM	Church Office Open Chaplet of Divine Mercy
<u>Tuesday, August 29th</u>	
7:30 AM - 8:00AM	Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM	Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - 10:00 AM	Church Office Open Lectio Divina
<u>Wednesday, August 30th</u>	
7:30 AM - 8:00AM	Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM	Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM	Church Office Open
<u>Thursday, August 31st</u>	
7:30 AM - 8:00AM	Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM	Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM	Church Office Open
<u>Friday, September 1st</u>	
8:00 AM - 12:00PM	Church Office Open
11:15 AM - 11:45AM	Penance & Reconciliation
12:00 PM	Daily Mass
<u>Saturday, September 2nd</u>	
3:30PM - 4:45AM	Penance & Reconciliation
5:00 PM	Vigil Mass



Altar Flowers donated Dustin & Kadie Frost



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

4Saturday August 26th 2023

Lectors: John Allen, Tom Garza

EMHC: Trish Carter, George Trevison

Altar Servers: Cedric, Kevin and Peter Serio

Sunday August 27th, 2023

Lectors: Jim Martin, Larry Mullens

EMHC: Tom Bishop, Thomas Rogers, Elaine Johnson, Mary Ghongkedze

Altar Servers: Hannah & Brooklynn Bryan

Saturday September 2nd 2023

Lectors: Pam Allen, Samantha Groce

EMHC: George Trevison, Mary Carol Vidrine

Altar Servers: Jack, Jessie & Julie Groce

Sunday September 3rd, 2023

Lectors: Ryan Freling, Larry Mullens

EMHC: Carol Mercier, Paul Jackson, Todd Wasson, Thomas Rogers

Altar Servers: Brennan & Matthew Jackson



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

Miriam Bishop
Frankie Career
Judy Darcey
Sean Dwyer
Becky Ferrell
Mary Lou French
Emmely Gay
Bernice Harrison
Harvey Hayes
Maureen Hinton
Magnolia Johnson
Jeffery Judice
Chris Letendre
Ken Martinez
Tobie McKown
Claudia Michel
Leopoldo Michel
Rueben Moreno
Susan Morphew
Cynthia Murry

Katherine Ned
Don Olivier
Matthew Reichert
Tristen Roberts
Pearline Robey
Laura Leigh Saleese
Jennie Schutte-Patrick
Diane Singletary
Nicole Smith
Polly Smith
Tyler Sorrels
Holly Hollis Star
Willie Tannerhill
Karen Taylor
Diane Theriot
Pam Turner
David & Kim St. John
Kathleen "Kathy" Walter
Janice Williams

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

August 12/ 13

General Sunday Collection \$5,996.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Like Peter in today's Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to experience Jesus' presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



Vigésimo Primer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Como Pedro, en el Evangelio de hoy, nos damos cuenta que cuando abrimos los ojos a ver, nuestros oídos a escuchar y los corazones a experimentar la presencia de Jesús en nuestras vidas diarias, es Dios mismo que se revela a nosotros.

¿Nunca has pensado contestar el llamado a servir a los pobres de nuestra parroquia, uniéndote como miembro a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl? Por favor piénsalo y reza que el Señor te ayude a decidir.



Saturday August 26th

For the Parishioner of
St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday August 27th

Nancy Ellis +
(by Diane Taylor)

Tuesday August 29th

Edward Mercier +
(by Eddie & Carol Mercier)

Wednesday August 30th

Mike Buske +
(by Diane Taylor)

Thursday August 31st

Mike Buske +
(by Diane Taylor)

Friday August 18th

Dennis C. Kennedy +
(by Gary & Selene Kennedy)

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/>



Registration is now open for the Women's ACTS Retreat, October 3-5, 2023. If there is one spiritual gift you give yourself this year that lasts for a lifetime, this would be it. What you receive in return is doubled and what you are able to give to others afterward is immeasurable. Cost is \$200 and do not let this prevent you from going. Financial assistance may be available. There aren't too many places you can go for a weekend, for \$200, that includes your meals, activities, and transportation. You will meet women of all ages, walks-of-life, and cultures – so there is no excuse that you are too young or old, etc. to attend. Seven (7) women from St. Thomas Aquinas attended this past Spring ...the highest number we've ever had. Let's get this number again – or higher!

**Registration forms are available in the church vestibule, church office or you can contact
Retreat Director: Laura Maclin 318-348-2956
Space is limited – Registration deadline is Aug. 28**

COMMUNITY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED
CJC SISTER SERVANTS

COME & SEE
SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2023

For young women 19-36 -years of age

"In my own body I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His body the Church." ~ Colossians 1:24

103 Railroad Ave
St Martinville, LA 70582

Registration required, please
email: cjcpbsvocationdirectress@gmail.com or call 337-344-6550

8/17/2023 4:28 PM

Please Help your Neighbors in Lincoln Parish through SVDP



Requests for food, utility, and housing assistance is high this summer due to record high temperatures, children at home, and inflation.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization inspired by Gospel values to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

Please help us in this mission of charity by making a donation today. You can either place your donation in the poor box at the back of the church or by mail: Saint Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 2462, Ruston LA 71273-2462. Checks payable to Saint Vincent de Paul.



2023 Catholic Service Appeal Report

Parish and Location	Parish ID	# of Parish Families	# of Families Participating 2023 (to date)	Participation Percentage	2023 Parish Goal	Amount Pledged 2023 (to date)	% Goal Pledged	Amount Contributed 2023
Miscellaneous Contributions	1	145	22	15%	\$ -	\$3,803		\$2,878
St. Joseph, Bastrop	8	125	25	20%	\$ 19,439	\$5,480	28.2%	\$4,280
Mary, Queen of Peace	10	290	71	24%	\$ 49,683	\$55,518	111.7%	\$50,986
Christ the King - Bossier City	11	419	73	17%	\$ 53,360	\$19,909	37.3%	\$18,034
St. Jude Church - Bossier City	12	1,172	202	17%	\$ 150,336	\$77,493	51.5%	\$69,409
St. Ann, Ebarb	25	85	49	58%	\$ 17,498	\$11,120	63.6%	\$9,970
St. Benedict the Black	31	26	12	46%	\$ 4,390	\$1,725	39.3%	\$1,350
St. Lucy - Hodge	33	45	18	40%	\$ 21,822	\$7,910	36.2%	\$7,810
St. Margaret, Homer	34	24	18	75%	\$ 8,305	\$9,777	117.7%	\$8,337
St. Patrick - Lake Providence	38	50	15	30%	\$ 16,777	\$6,300	37.6%	\$6,000
St. Joseph, Mansfield	41	115	50	43%	\$ 36,237	\$31,735	87.6%	\$25,930
St. John the Baptist - Many	44	173	33	19%	\$ 35,854	\$13,767	38.4%	\$12,017
St. Terence	45	62	12	19%	\$ 9,704	\$4,701	48.4%	\$4,516
Blessed Sacrament, Ringgold	46	21	10	48%	\$ 5,393	\$1,917	35.5%	\$1,917
St. Paul - Minden	47	121	28	23%	\$ 21,349	\$9,917	46.5%	\$8,857
Jesus the Good Shepherd	48	748	123	16%	\$ 127,530	\$56,515	44.3%	\$52,715
Little Flower of Jesus	49	156	37	24%	\$ 30,852	\$4,030	13.1%	\$3,895
Our Lady of Fatima	50	182	48	26%	\$ 26,152	\$21,855	83.6%	\$20,555
St. Matthew	52	341	62	18%	\$ 76,913	\$27,605	35.9%	\$23,305
Sacred Heart, Oak Grove	58	47	8	17%	\$ 9,920	\$1,174	11.8%	\$1,174
St. Theresa - Delhi	59	22	5	23%	\$ 6,534	\$1,900	29.1%	\$1,900
St. George, Coushatta	62	32	13	41%	\$ 6,825	\$8,995	131.8%	\$8,725
Sacred Heart, Rayville	64	39	14	36%	\$ 15,320	\$4,275	27.9%	\$4,195
St. Thomas Aquinas - Ruston	65	300	48	16%	\$ 69,415	\$23,961	34.5%	\$23,271
Holy Trinity	68	562	92	16%	\$ 64,240	\$59,338	92.4%	\$55,123
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament	69	150	21	14%	\$ 28,311	\$7,170	25.3%	\$5,520
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Shreveport	70	230	42	18%	\$ 25,934	\$9,076	35.0%	\$8,616
Cathedral of St. John Berchmans	72	980	165	17%	\$ 153,207	\$155,948	101.8%	\$140,334
St. Joseph Church - Shreveport	73	852	207	24%	\$ 225,045	\$175,912	78.2%	\$161,632
St. Mary of the Pines	74	813	123	15%	\$ 72,534	\$39,110	53.9%	\$34,640
St. Pius X	75	175	70	40%	\$ 44,035	\$25,955	58.9%	\$22,715
St. Clement - Vivian	82	58	27	47%	\$ 9,710	\$8,075	83.2%	\$6,140
St. Paschal - West Monroe	83	370	116	31%	\$ 79,994	\$40,485	50.6%	\$38,087
St. Joseph, Zvolle	86	611	132	22%	\$ 86,060	\$58,737	68.3%	\$50,732
St. Lawrence - Swartz	90	75	13	17%	\$ 11,082	\$1,725	15.6%	\$1,710
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	91	159	24	15%	\$ 6,573	\$5,020	76.4%	\$4,220
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	93	747	224	30%	\$ 147,657	\$148,375	100.5%	\$138,625
St. Ann, Stonewall	94	120	43	36%	\$ 26,010	\$12,170	46.8%	\$10,810
TOTAL (DIOCESE)		10,642	2,295	22%	\$ 1,800,000	\$1,158,477	64.4%	\$1,049,130



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.



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.



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.

Eucharistic Revival and Eucharistic Congress



For additional faith resources as we continue into this year of the Eucharistic Revival, please visit our Eucharistic Revival page on our website by <https://www.dioshpt.org/eucharistic-revival>

And to register for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, please <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>



Novena for Corpus Cristi

The novena starts on June 2. Pick up a guide for the novena in the church vestibule. These are available in both English and Spanish.

Sophia Institute for Teachers – Summer Activities

A ready-to-use Sunday Gospel resource for June, July, and August. Link: <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/lesson/teaching-the-liturgical-year>

If you are looking for summer religious education activities for your family, download the free resources that go along with the weekly readings and liturgical year.

Adult Education

The group will continue to view the Angels video on June 4. Father Kevin will lead the *Book of Revelation from A Catholic Perspective* starting Sunday, June 11. The group will meet in the E. Donn Piatt Student Center at 10:45 am – 11:45 am on Sundays throughout the summer.

Women's Small Group

The Women's Small Group is still meeting periodically throughout the summer months. They are using the Scripture study Keeping in Balance by Walking with Purpose. Please call Bridget Skinner if you are interested in joining this small group. 318-243-3081



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: If you or someone you love is hurting from an abortion, please call the dedicated line: 318-588-1064 for information, or visit the website at www.rachelsvineyard.org. Absolute confidentiality is maintained by team members and participants prior to, during, and following the Rachel's Vineyard Retreats.

The next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be October 20-22, 2023.

If you have any questions, or to register, please contact the Rachel's Vineyard confidential line at 318-588-1064.



Are you looking for something to do where you make a difference in people's lives? Volunteer at Mary's House – Friday mornings 8:30 – 12:30 as our receptionist. You'll be the first smiling face our patients meet, and you'll work with a great team of ladies on the same mission – to make a difference for moms and babies. Call L'Anne at Mary's House to find out more – 318-220-8009.



MTJ SMITH PROPERTIES, LLC IS NEEDING A PART TIME EMPLOYEE TO HELP WITH MAINTENANCE FOR THEIR RENTAL PROPERTY. PLEASE CALL 318-513-2200 IF INTERESTED.



Piano Lessons

Evan Simon
(985)789-0623
epsimon3652@gmail.com

We have Class!

Back to School

B I R O S H L G N I D A E R
 G O J S P O R T S R A H U F
 N E O O I Q H V N E O L X C
 I S D K M A K F E W E R K R
 T W C C Q U I Z I R V S S X
 I I O C J T I B R L M R T W
 R S S D N I E R F F L G U H
 W Z Q L P E N C I L D C D T
 B U S S S O M C Q Q E N Y A
 U M Y T E A C H E R D U T M

Book
Study
Bus
Math
Quiz
Ruler
Friends
Teacher
Pencil
Reading
Sports
Writing

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BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University



School's Out for Summer!



Mary Garden blooming in the spring to send off our students!

School is out for the summer! ACTS members will be going their own ways until we can meet up again in the fall. From Utah to Mississippi, we will have members working and living all over the U.S! We are sad to see our wonderful seniors leaving us this year but are hopeful for their futures and the chance to see them again soon!

Summer ACTStivities

Everyday:

* Summer Vacation

Orientation Sessions:

* June 7-9

* June 21-23

* July 12-14

* July 26-28

Back to School Events:

* 9/3 – College Mass

* 9/7 – Classes Begin

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

Job Openings

Catholic Center
The Diocese of Shreveport is looking to fill the following positions:

Catholic School Principal
Director of Marriage & Family Life
Information Technology "IT" Technician
Administrative Assistant for Director of Multicultural Ministries

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

The Diocese of Shreveport Child Nutrition Program is accepting applications for school foodservice workers. If you are interested in applying for a position as a full-time cafeteria worker at JGS, please pick up an application at Jesus the Good Shepherd School's office, 900 Good Shepherd Drive, Monroe, LA or contact Sr. Ann Middlebrooks, SEC, at (318) 219-7297 or email amiddlebrooks@dioshpt.org

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Parish of St. Mary of the Pines is in the process of hiring a **Youth Director**. The Youth Group currently meets each Wednesday evening. In addition to these weekly youth group meetings I would also like the Youth Group to participate in fun trips away from the parish, Mission Trips and diocesan programming. Qualifications include experience and ability in working with High School students. The youth group leader will also form a parent support group to assist him/her in implementing the program. There will be a stipend paid every two weeks. Please send a resume to mwatson@stmaryshreveport.org. Please call the St. Mary of the Pines Church office at (318) 687-5121 in order to schedule an interview.

God Bless our Students & Teachers
QUE DIOS BENDIGA A NUESTROS ALUMNOS Y MAESTROS



BACK TO SCHOOL

Regresando a la Escuela