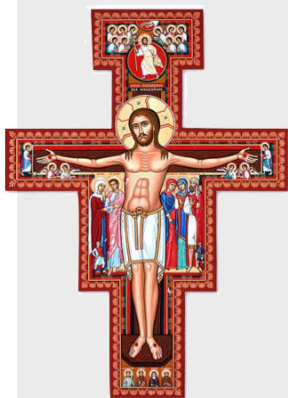


DECEMBER 17TH, 2023 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 & 8:00PM
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

Monday-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 Ssennyondo **Parroquial Vicar**
Deacon John Serio
Deacon Robert Ransom
Marcie Tucker (318) 255-2870 **Business Manager**
Melinda Bryan (318) 525-4906 **Interim PSR Director**
Matthew Bryan **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.

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



<u>December 1st</u>	Brynn Reger - Luis Angel Garcia
<u>December 2nd</u>	Rosalind Morris - Thomas Rogers
<u>December 4th</u>	Becky Smith
<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 - Rene 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 - Harold Cramer Mary Carol Vidrine
<u>December 17th</u>	Karen Rogers - Jesus Gonzalez Sheila Montgomery
<u>December 18th</u>	Paul Jackson - Barbara Aguirre
<u>December 19th</u>	Anyi Garcia Solis - Susan Fauchaux 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 - Robyn Kirkham Alondra Tapia - Steve Danna
<u>December 29th</u>	Daniel Lindsey
<u>December 30th</u>	Scott Martin - Leslie Mendez Christopher Montgomery
<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 17th

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

Monday, December 18th

7:30 AM - 8:00AM	Penance & Reconciliation
8:15 AM	Daily Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM - 5:30 PM	Church Office Open Divine Mercy Chaplet

Tuesday, December 19th

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

Wednesday, December 20th

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

Thursday, December 21st

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

Friday, December 22nd

8:00 AM - 12:00PM	Church Office Open
11:15 AM - 11:45AM	Penance & Reconciliation
12:00 PM	Daily Mass
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Adoration

Saturday, December 23rd

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.

ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN

If you're enjoying the new bulletin, but want to see more, advertise for your company in the back. The more advertisements we have, the more space they will give us at no charge.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday December 16th 2023

Lectors: George Trevison, Dolly Hurtig

EMHC: Beth Buske, John Ryan Serio

Altar Servers: Cedric, Kevin and Peter Serio

Sunday December 17th, 2023

Lectors: Ryan Freling, Stacey Denny

EMHC: Tom Bishop, Emily Chartier, Mary Ghongkedze, Paul Jackson

Altar Servers: Brennan & Matthew Jackson

Saturday December 23rd 2023

Lectors: Mary Carol Vidrine, Sarah Wilkerson

EMHC: Slade Richard, George Trevison

Altar Servers: Jack, Jessie & Julie Groce

Sunday November 24th, 2023

Lectors: Josie Bishop, Charlotte Wilkerson

EMHC: Todd Wasson, Thomas Rogers, Jim Martin, Tom Bishop

Altar Servers: Hannah & Brooklynn Bryan



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

Patti Hooper Allen
Miriam Bishop
Jackie Bolden
Frankie Career
Bruce Cowan
Judy Darcey
Laurie Duvall
Sean Dwyer
Becky Ferrell
Mary Lou French
Emmely Gay
Bernice Harrison
Harvey Hayes
Maureen Hinton
Karl Johnson
Magnolia Johnson
Jeffery Justice
Chris Letendre
Ken Martinez
Tobie McKown
Claudia Michel

Leopoldo Michel
Rueben Moreno
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
Willie Tannerhill
Karen Taylor
Diane Theriot
Pam Turner
David & Kim St. John
Kathleen "Kathy" Walter
Janice Williams

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY December 9/10

General Sunday Collection \$11,032.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!



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.



Mass Intentions

- Saturday December 16th** Blaise Cosentino +
(by Gene Cosentino)
- Sunday December 17th** For the parishioners of St.
Thomas Aquinas
- Tuesday December 19th** Bernadette Bennett +
(by Pamela Torres)
- Wednesday December 20th** Luffey Family
(by Barbara Lewis)
- Thursday December 21st** Tolbert Family
(by Barbara Lewis)
- Friday December 21st** John Brown, Sr. Family
(by Barbara Lewis)

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/>



*please join us
after Mass for
the*

Nativity Play

DECEMBER 17 10:45 AM

**ST. THOMAS
LUFFEY CENTER**

Parish School of Religion Schedule 2023 -2024

December PSR Schedule

- Dec 17th: Parish Community Gathering in the Luffey Center -- featuring the Nativity Play by children in grades pre-k to 1st grade. All are welcome. NO PSR due to Community Gathering.
- Dec 24th: NO PSR due to Christmas Break
- Dec 31st: NO PSR due to Christmas Break
- Jan 7th: PSR RESUMES grades pre-k through 12th

Past & Upcoming Confirmation Deadlines

- Past: Confirmandis' should have already chosen a Sponsor & asked their sponsor to sponsor them.
- January 14, 2024: All documents for sponsor turned into PSR teacher or Mindy Bryan.
- February 4, 2024: Letter to the Bishop due to PSR Teacher or Mindy Bryan.

Upcoming First Communion Deadlines

- December 17, 2024: Turn in First Communion registration form, and request original Baptismal certificate from Parish where child was baptized.

Mindy Bryan, Interim PSR Direction can be reached at melinda@latech.edu or 318.525.4906.

Mass times for December 24th & 25th

December 24th

Advent:

9:30 am 4th Sunday of Advent

1:30 pm 4th Sunday of Advent (Spanish/ Español)

Christmas Eve:

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Midnight Christmas Eve Mass

December 25th

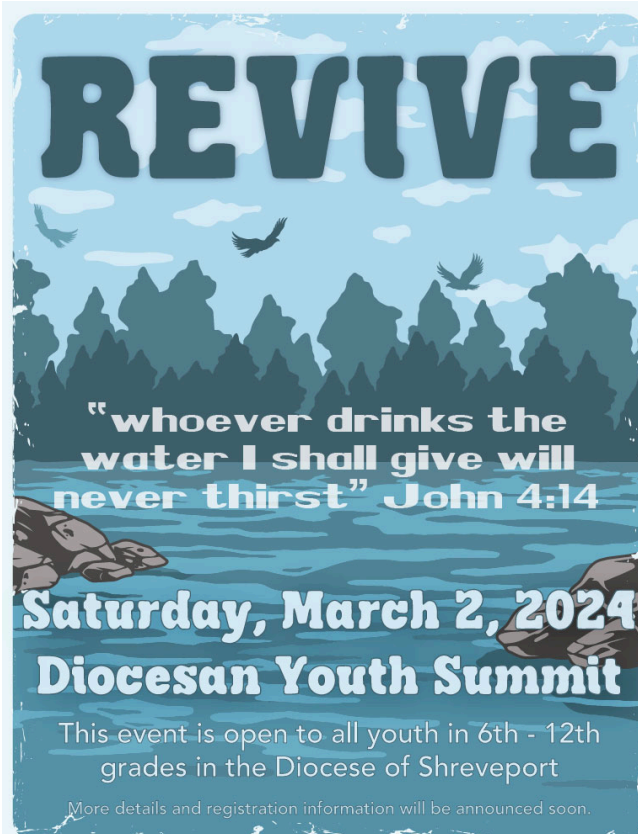
9:30 am Christmas Day Mass

1:30 pm Christmas Mass (Spanish/ Español)

** Everyone is obliged to attend one Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and one for the Solemnity of Christmas.

Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord. Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

REVIVE

**"whoever drinks the
water I shall give will
never thirst" John 4:14**

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Diocesan Youth Summit

This event is open to all youth in 6th - 12th grades in the Diocese of Shreveport

More details and registration information will be announced soon.

STAY

Our youth leaders strive to provide an environment for both fun and friendship as well as the strengthening of Catholic values for the youth of our parish on Wednesday evenings. Many thanks to Marina Bishop and our volunteers Karen Rogers, Paula Martin and Samantha Groce for your continued efforts to guide our youth in our faith.



Vision

Catholic youth ministry in the Diocese of Shreveport strives to equip every young person in the diocese with the head knowledge and the heart knowledge of their faith to participate more fully in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Church community.



BEING CATHOLIC

at Louisiana Tech University

Students Leaving Again!



The ACTS group went to the Natchitoches Lights Festival and enjoyed touring shops and restaurants, and watching the wonderful fireworks show over the river

As quickly as all the students came back from Thanksgiving break, they now leave again for Christmas break on Wednesday.

The students will be back on January 3rd to continue their Winter Quarter classes.

ACTS wishes everyone a wonderful rest of Advent!

Weekly ACTStivities

Sunday 12/17

* Student mass 7pm

Monday 12/18

* Campus Rosary 12pm

* Cross Talk 6pm

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

Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

Save the date
January 28, 2024

Parish Gumbo Lunch.

STAY

6-12 TH GRADES, MEETINGS 6-7:30
DINNER INCLUDED

DEC 20	DINNER ADORATION GIFT GAME
JAN 10	SMALL GROUP TOPICS
JAN 17	REGULAR YOUTH MEETING

QUESTIONS? 504-940-8997 MARINA BISHOP

FELIZ ADVIENTO



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	29	20%	\$ -	\$5,963		\$5,328
St. Joseph, Bastrop	8	125	34	27%	\$ 19,439	\$6,025	31.0%	\$5,325
Mary, Queen of Peace	10	290	74	26%	\$ 49,683	\$58,708	118.2%	\$57,944
Christ the King - Bossier City	11	419	83	20%	\$ 53,360	\$22,154	41.5%	\$21,794
St. Jude Church - Bossier City	12	1,172	209	18%	\$ 150,336	\$83,574	55.6%	\$82,453
St. Ann, Ebarb	25	85	51	60%	\$ 17,498	\$11,180	63.9%	\$11,080
St. Benedict the Black	31	26	13	50%	\$ 4,390	\$2,225	50.7%	\$2,125
St. Lucy - Hodge	33	45	18	40%	\$ 21,822	\$7,910	36.2%	\$7,885
St. Margaret, Homer	34	24	18	75%	\$ 8,305	\$9,777	117.7%	\$9,577
St. Patrick - Lake Providence	38	50	16	32%	\$ 16,777	\$6,325	37.7%	\$6,325
St. Joseph, Mansfield	41	115	52	45%	\$ 36,237	\$62,960	173.7%	\$62,475
St. John the Baptist - Many	44	173	34	20%	\$ 35,854	\$14,167	39.5%	\$13,767
St. Terence	45	62	12	19%	\$ 9,704	\$4,776	49.2%	\$4,751
Blessed Sacrament, Ringgold	46	21	10	48%	\$ 5,393	\$1,927	35.7%	\$1,927
St. Paul - Minden	47	121	29	24%	\$ 21,349	\$9,967	46.7%	\$9,592
Jesus the Good Shepherd	48	748	129	17%	\$ 127,530	\$57,850	45.4%	\$57,118
Little Flower of Jesus	49	156	38	24%	\$ 30,852	\$4,140	13.4%	\$4,020
Our Lady of Fatima	50	182	49	27%	\$ 26,152	\$22,105	84.5%	\$22,080
St. Matthew	52	341	65	19%	\$ 76,913	\$30,520	39.7%	\$26,720
Sacred Heart, Oak Grove	58	47	9	19%	\$ 9,920	\$1,374	13.9%	\$1,374
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%	\$8,895
Sacred Heart, Rayville	64	39	14	36%	\$ 15,320	\$4,275	27.9%	\$4,255
St. Thomas Aquinas - Ruston	65	300	49	16%	\$ 69,415	\$24,962	36.0%	\$24,867
Holy Trinity	68	562	101	18%	\$ 64,240	\$65,158	101.4%	\$64,268
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament	69	150	23	15%	\$ 28,311	\$7,395	26.1%	\$7,210
Sacred Heart of Jesus - Shreveport	70	230	45	20%	\$ 25,934	\$9,276	35.8%	\$7,631
Cathedral of St. John Berchmans	72	980	170	17%	\$ 153,207	\$159,978	104.4%	\$152,378
St. Joseph Church - Shreveport	73	852	235	28%	\$ 225,045	\$196,053	87.1%	\$191,613
St. Mary of the Pines	74	813	129	16%	\$ 72,534	\$42,810	59.0%	\$40,625
St. Pius X	75	175	70	40%	\$ 44,035	\$27,500	62.5%	\$26,575
St. Clement - Vidian	82	58	27	47%	\$ 9,710	\$9,160	94.3%	\$9,110
St. Paschal - West Monroe	83	370	127	34%	\$ 79,994	\$44,355	55.4%	\$43,734
St. Joseph, Zwille	86	611	143	23%	\$ 86,060	\$67,382	78.3%	\$65,907
St. Lawrence - Swartz	90	75	14	19%	\$ 11,082	\$1,995	18.0%	\$1,995
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	91	159	24	15%	\$ 6,573	\$5,041	76.7%	\$4,491
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	93	747	236	32%	\$ 147,657	\$156,545	106.0%	\$154,065
St. Ann, Stonewall	94	120	43	36%	\$ 26,010	\$12,170	46.8%	\$11,945
TOTAL (DIOCESE)		10,642	2,440	23%	\$ 1,800,000	\$1,268,576	70.5%	\$1,235,124

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Third Sunday of Advent -- December 17, 2023
 "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to Director of Vocations Father Raney Johnson at rjohnson@sjbcathedral.org

Tercer Domingo de Adviento - 17 de diciembre de 2023

"El espíritu del Señor Dios está sobre mí, porque el Señor me ha ungido". ¡Dios te está dando poder para un propósito específico! ¿Cómo responderás a un amor tan grande? ¿Te está pidiendo que lo sigas sirviendo en el sacerdocio o en la vida consagrada? Hable con su sacerdote o comuníquese con el Director de Vocaciones, el Padre Raney Johnson, al rjohnson@sjbcathedral.org



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.

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM AT THE CATHOLIC CENTER

- ✓ GENERAL LEDGER/PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT
- ✓ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN
- ✓ DIRECTOR OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE
- ✓ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO: DEACON MICHAEL STRAUB
MSTRAUB@DIOSHPT.ORG



Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows
Vocations Retreat Weekend
January 13 & 14, 2024
9894 Norris Ferry Road
Shreveport, La

The Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows invite you to attend a discernment retreat! Religious sisters from surrounding communities will assist, give talks, lead small groups, and share their testimony by providing joyful witness of what it means to them to be a religious sister.

If the thought of religious life has crossed your mind or if you want to learn more about the life of a religious sister, join us! This weekend is for you!

Meals are provided. There is no cost to attend this retreat, you are our guest! This retreat is open to women ages 16-23 throughout the Diocese of Shreveport.

The retreat will begin at 11 am Saturday, January 13th and end at 3 pm Sunday January 14th

If you have any questions, contact Sister AnnaMaria at annamariampda@yahoo.it or vocationsoffice@dioshpt.org