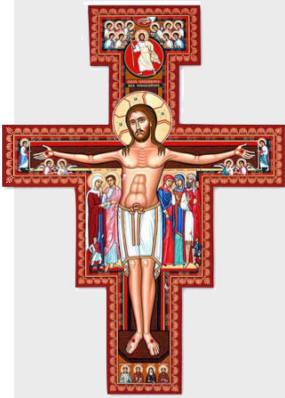


DECEMBER 24TH, 2023 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



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 24th

9:30 AM	Sunday Mass
1:30 PM	Misa en Español
6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 25th

12:00 AM	Midnight Mass
9:30 AM	Christmas Mass
9:00 AM - 4:00PM -	Church Office CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26th

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

Wednesday, December 27^h

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

Thursday, December 28th

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

Friday, December 29th

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 30th

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

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 Schedule

Saturday December 23rd 2023

Lectors: John Allen, Pam Allen

EMHC: Slade Richard, George Trevison

Altar Servers: Jack, Jessie & Julie Groce

Sunday December 24th, 2023

9:30am

Lectors: Paul Jackson, Jim Martin

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

Altar Servers:

6:00pm

Lectors: Samantha Groce, George Trevison

EMHC: Carol Mercier, Bob Rorie, Paul Jackson, Elaine Johnson

Altar Servers:

Monday December 25th, 2023

Midnight

Lectors: Dolly Hurtig, Mary Carol Vidrine

EMHC: Beth Buske, Todd Wasson

9:30am

Lectors: Charlotte Wilkerson, Sarah Wilkerson

EMHC: Gary Kennedy, Mary Carol Vidrine, Trish Carter, Mary Ghongkedze

Saturday December 30th 2023

Lectors: Tom Garza, George Trevison

EMHC: Trish Carter, Mary Carol Vidrine

Altar Servers: Cedric, Kevin and Peter Serio

Sunday December 31st, 2023

Lectors: Stacey Denny, Ryan Freling

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

Altar Servers: Brennan & Matthew Jackson

Monday January 1st, 2024

6:00pm

Lectors: Dolly Hurtig, John Allen

EMHC: Todd Wasson, Mary Carol Vidrine



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



Mass Intentions

Saturday December 23rd Dennis C. Kennedy +
(by Gary & Selene Kennedy)

Sunday December 24th Bobby Ortego +
(by Karen Ortego)

Por los feligreses de la parroquia
Santo Tomas de Aquino

Tuesday December 25th Charles Bourgeois +
(by Mary Bailey)
Sanders & Thompson Families +
(by Barbara Lewis)

Thursday December 28th Bernadette Bennett +
(by Pamela Torres)

Friday December 29th Garza 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/>

Parish School of Religion Schedule 2023 -2024

December/January PSR Schedule

- Dec 24th: NO PSR due to Christmas Break
- Dec 31st: NO PSR due to Christmas Break
- Jan 7th: PSR resumes for ALL grades (pre-k - high school).
- Jan 14th: Family of Faith Adult Meeting in the Luffey/ PSR Meeting grades pre-K-12th grade.
- Jan 21st: PSR Meeting grades pre-K-12th grade.
- Jan 28th: NO PSR / Community Gathering for the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

Past & Upcoming Confirmation Deadlines

- Past: Confirmandies should have already chosen a Sponsor & asked their sponsor to sponsor them and be working on their saint paper, which should be turned into PSR teacher or DRE upon return from Christmas break / Jan 7th.
- 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 Director can be reached at melinda@latech.edu or 318.525.4906.

Nativity Play - Advent Brunch December 17th, 2023

The Community Gathering featuring the Nativity Play and Children’s Choir was a huge success! Thank you to all that were involved in making this event a success! Many, many unnamed volunteers helped with this event from baking and delivering food to setting up tables to taking pictures to serving and cleaning up. A special thanks to Bridget for directing the Nativity Play, to Julie for providing our music, to Heidi for directing the Children’s Choir, and to Father Kevin for writing our trivia questions. I am impressed at how to the St. Thomas community supported this event. If you have suggestions on how to improve community gatherings, please reach out to Mindy Bryan at 318-525-4906. Mark Your Calendars for the next Community Gathering on January 28th for the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas.



STAY



Thank you to all the parishioners who took tags off the Advent tree and bought gifts. Our STAY group spent the last youth meeting wrapping gifts thanks to all the generosity of those who donated.



The 2023 Advent Angels project has been a huge success!! Thanks to the kindness of the entire St. Thomas family, we have officially doubled our giving from previous years blessing children right in Lincoln Parish, with **over 200 gifts and over 150 pantry staples**. This year we were also able to bless members of our own community—a true testament to your generosity. A deep and heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated!!



Celebración a nuestra señora La Virgen de Guadalupe



Gracias a todos los voluntarios quienes hicieron que la celebración a nuestra Virgencita fuera todo un éxito. Todos los que apoyaron con comidas, bebidas, flores, decoraciones, tiempo y trabajo. Faltan muchos en las fotos y se les agradece a todos!

El grupo del programa RICA celebró posada navideña.



El grupo rompió piñata, compartió un delicioso pozole y se repartieron botas con dulces a los niños y tazas con dulces a los adultos. Gracias a nuestra comunidad que se mantiene unida y continua apoyando todas las actividades en nuestra parroquia.

ST THOMAS YOUTH NIGHT

FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FAITH

Join us for dinner, conversation, topics and games on Wednesdays, 6-7:30 PM.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 504-940-8997, MARINA BISHOP

6TH-12TH GRADES

STAY

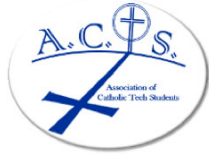
6-12 TH GRADES, MEETINGS 6-7:30
DINNER INCLUDED

- JAN 10 | DINNER, SPECIAL TOPIC
- JAN 17 | GAME NIGHT
- JAN 24 | DINNER, PREP FOR GUMBO MEAL
- JAN 28 | **GUMBO MEAL, FEAST DAY**
- JAN 31 | SMALL GROUP TOPICS
- FEB 7 | SPECIAL TOPICS
- FEB 14 | ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
- FEB 28 | EUCHARIST TALK
- MAR 2 | **DIOCESAN YOUTH SUMMIT**

QUESTIONS? 504-940-8997 MARINA BISHOP

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.



BEING CATHOLIC
at Louisiana Tech University



Merry Christmas!



Everyone showing off their gifts at the White Elephant party on St Nicholas's Feast Day!

The students at LA Tech are all back home for the Christmas Break!

ACTS wishes everyone Merry Christmas!

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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

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.

Feast of
St. Thomas
Aquinas

Save the date
January 28, 2024

Parish Gumbo Lunch.

DIACONATE

FORMATION PROGRAM

I am excited to share that the Diocese of Shreveport is kicking off another round of our Diaconate Formation program. I encourage all of our parishioners to prayerfully consider if you or someone you know could be a good deacon for the Church. There will be an informational meeting in our deanery on

Wednesday, January 17th at 6 PM

in the Moore Hall of Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, Monroe. I ask you to prayerfully consider attending this meeting to learn more about how you can take a more involved role in our parish and the Mass.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Navidad -- 25 de diciembre de 2023

“El Niño que en ella ha sido concebido, es del Espíritu Santo, porque él salvará a su pueblo”. ¿Te está guiando el Espíritu Santo a compartir tus dones como sacerdote o hermano religioso o hermana religiosa? Hable con su sacerdote o comuníquese con la Father Raney Johnson por correo electrónico: rjohnson@sjbeathedral.org

Christmas -- December 25, 2023

“The Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, for He will save His people.” Is the Holy Spirit leading you to share your gifts as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or contact Director of Vocations Father Raney Johnson at rjohnson@sjbeathedral.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.



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

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