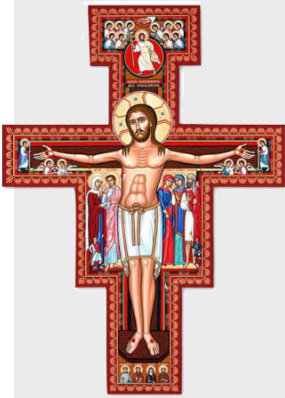


DECEMBER 31ST, 2023 | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



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

Monday: 8:15AM
Tuesday: 8:15AM
Wednesday: 8:15AM & 8:00PM
Thursday: 8:15AM
Friday: 12:00PM

BAPTISM

Please call the Church Office to schedule

MARRIAGE

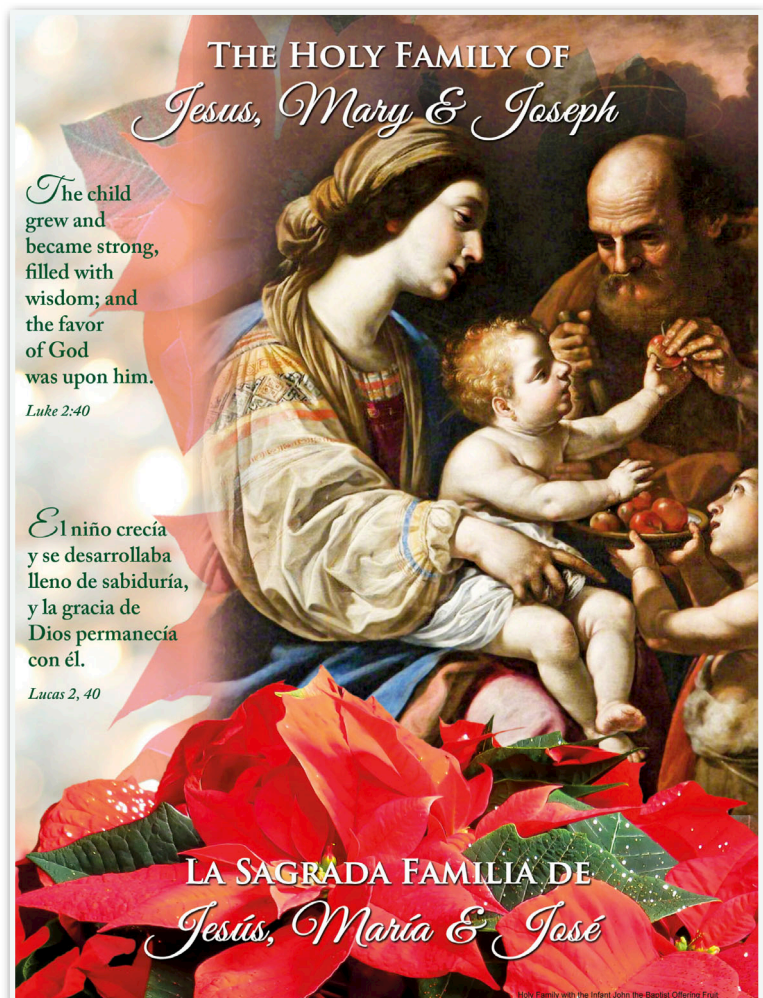
Please call Church Office SIX MONTHS in advance to schedule

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 Ssenyondo **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>January 1st</u>	Wayne Skipper - Victor Langiulli Dolly Garcia
<u>January 2nd</u>	Carmen Trevison Ethan Moreno
<u>January 3rd</u>	Atilano Garcia Martinez - Stephanie Martinez - Darlene Menzina
<u>January 4th</u>	Oscar Hannibal
<u>January 5th</u>	Ramona Bishop - Juana Melendez
<u>January 7th</u>	Josie Bishop - Janice Holbron Ashley Michelle Landaverde
<u>January 10th</u>	Yanney Hernandez
<u>January 11th</u>	Olivia Roger
<u>January 12th</u>	David Broussard - Melissa Jackson Kaitlin Corcia - Harryn Lopez
<u>January 13th</u>	Joseph 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, II
<u>January 18th</u>	Linda Oakley
<u>January 20th</u>	Christine Hanna - Matthew Montgomery
<u>January 21st</u>	Rose Kitishian - John Mark Adams Jose Maria Garcia
<u>January 22nd</u>	Benjamin Denny - Edgar Nunez
<u>January 24th</u>	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, December 31st

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

Monday, January 1st

8:15 AM Mass
6:00 PM Mass
8:30 AM - 4:00PM Church Office CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2nd

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

Wednesday, January 3rd

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

Thursday, January 4th

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

Friday, January 5th

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, January 6th

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

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them." This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by assisting families, providing food, gifts, utilities and rent bills. Thanks!



La Sagrada Familia, Jesús, María y José

Hoy celebramos la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José. Durante nuestro Año Nuevo, que nuestras familias "crezcan en sabiduría y que tengan el favor de Dios sobre todos ellos." Este mes, por medio de los regalos de muchos feligreses de nuestra parroquia, la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl logró traer la Navidad a los corazones de los pobres, asistiendo a familias, proveyéndoles en comestibles, regalos y para gastos de luz, gas, agua y renta. ¡Muchísimas gracias!

Ministry Schedule

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

Saturday January 6th 2024

Lectors: Samantha Groce, Sarah Wilkerson

EMHC: George Trevison, Bob Rorie

Altar Servers: Jack, Jessie & Julie Groce

Sunday January 7th, 2024

Lectors: Charlotte Wilkerson, Mary Carol Vidrine

EMHC: Elaine Johnson, Gary Kennedy, Tom Bishop, Emily Chartier

Altar Servers: Hannah & Brooklynn Bryan



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!



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
Larry Miller
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 30th For the parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday December 31st Bernadette Bennett +
(by Pamela Torres)

Odi Okeke
(by Fr. Kevin Mues)

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/>

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY December 16/17

General Sunday Collection \$5,961.00

Thank you for continued and generous support!

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.

Parish School of Religion Schedule 2023 -2024

December/January PSR Schedule

- **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.



All women of St. Thomas Aquinas are invited to the Women's Guild meetings in the Luffey Center. Please join us for lunch and fellowship. If you are new to St. Thomas Aquinas parish, please know that we would love to meet you and welcome you to our church! For more information call or text Rhonda at 318.548.7127.

Upcoming meetings January 9th, 2024 and February 13th, 2024!

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!!



STAY

Wednesday, December 20th the youth had a potluck meal, had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and played a dirty Santa game. We will take a break and meet again on January 10th, 2024.



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

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

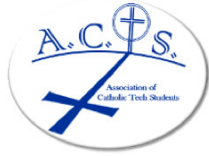
6-12 TH GRADES, MEETINGS 6-7:30
DINNER INCLUDED

- 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 from ACTS!



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

The students will be back in Ruston to start classes on January 3rd. Many students will have exams when they come back, so we need your prayers!

ACTS wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Weekly ACTStivities

Thursday 1/4

* Campus Rosary
12:00p

Friday 1/5

* Sports in the Quad 3:30p

* Adoration 6p

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

Save the Date
for
CONFIRMATION

MAY
SATURDAY 11 5:00 PM

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
813 CAREY AVE, RUSTON LA, 71270
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

First Holy
Communion Mass

Save the Date

Sunday, May 12, 2024
during the 9:30 Mass*

*Reception to Follow

St. Thomas Catholic Church
813 Carey Ave, Ruston, LA 71270

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

Feast of the Holy Family -- Sunday, December 31, 2023

"I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Do you feel God is offering you the gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life as a sister, brother, or consecrated virgin, talk to your priest or contact Director of Vocations Father Raney Johnson at rjohnson@sjbcathedral.org

Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia - Domingo 31 de diciembre de 2023

"Yo soy un escudo para ti; Tu recompensa será muy grande". Si siente que Dios le está ofreciendo el regalo de una vocación al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada como hermana, hermano o virgen consagrada, hable con su sacerdote o comuníquese con la Father Raney Johnson Oficina de Vocaciones al por correo electrónico 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.



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