

THE

JANUARY 6/7, 2024

PEW BUDDY

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (B)

"Lord, every
nation on earth
will adore you."
~Psalm 72:11

St. Margaret Church & Parish Office

30300 Catholic Hall Road | Hammond | LA 70403
P.O. Box 100 | Albany | LA 70711

St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel

31718 Main Street | Springfield | LA 70462

OFFICE HOURS

We are open Tuesday
through Friday from
8:00AM until 3:00PM,
but closed for lunch from
12:00PM until 1:00PM!

We are closed on Monday!



CONTACT US

By Phone:

225.567.3573

By Email:

stmargaret@diobr.org

Website:

stmargaretstthomas.com

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

By John Foley, SJ

There was deeper darkness to come. The Wise Men moved, weary, into Jerusalem, and then straight into the jaws of the power-hungry, luxury-loving King Herod. They asked a question to the Jerusalem citizens that shocked Herod greatly when it got back to him. “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Ouch. The question revealed a stunning fact. There is to be a new king instead of Herod! Herod oiled his way to his chief priests and scribes. He ordered them to scour scripture for hints about this horror--uh, no, this holy birth. In response they announced in a dignified manner that the long-awaited Messiah, King of the Jews, will be born “in Bethlehem of Juda.” But this is just what Herod and his offspring were: Kings of the Jews. He called the Magi to him, smiled, faked holy interest, then made his plans. Make no mistake. At this point Herod knew clearly he was dealing with God’s own design for the world, foretold by the scriptures of the very people he was supposed to be leading. Herod made up his mind to commit an atrocity. You know the story. The Magi had found and worshipped the tiny Christ. Herod, still in the dark, sent out troops to slaughter all boy babies of two years old or less in Bethlehem and surroundings, just to eliminate this so-called “King.” And, speaking of having “a hard time of it,” in Eliot’s words, Jesus’ parents had to cross the harsh desert into Egypt in order to save him. Why do the readings talk so much about dark night on this Epiphany, which is the very feast of the dayspring? It is a complicated question, but here is one answer. Because God’s light only comes to us thoroughly mingled with the grubby reality of human life. Why else did he come as an infant? The Christ did not arrive to erase our troubles but to join us in them, to be a quiet light in our darkness, not a blinding replacement for the dark. So we have to be like the Magi. We have to have our own puzzling, sleepless nights, and we have to search and search, and never ever rest until we see the light as God chose to reveal it.



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

KC PULLED PORK DINNER

The KC Fourth Degree Assembly #2801, assisted by the Ladies Auxiliary and KC Council, are sponsoring a pulled pork fundraiser meal on **Thursday, January 11, 2024** from **11:00AM** until **12:30PM** in the parish hall. The meal includes a large pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, corn on the cob and dessert for \$11. Tickets will be sold outside of all Masses this weekend. Proceeds from these sales benefit the KC Fourth Degree charitable activities including supporting and assisting our two churches, its ministries and our community.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Our next session of Family Faith Formation will be on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at **11:15AM**. The topic presented by Rachael Johnson will be *"Dealing with Depression and Loneliness in Youth."* This session will be in the St. Margaret Room in the Hall of Saints. At least one parent per student is required to attend each session, though it is preferable that both parents attend these sessions. Indeed, all parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate to learn more about their faith!

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Tax time is right around the corner! If you are a registered parishioner and need a statement of your annual contributions to our Church community for 2023, please call Lucie Hanewinkel at extension 103 **after January 1, 2024** and leave her a message with your name and specific request. Thank you for your generosity to our parish all throughout the year! Parishioners really make St. Margaret a dynamic parish!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

New Year, New Schedule! Calling all Junior High (5-8 grade) Youth! We will begin our much anticipated Jr. Youth Nights on **Wednesdays** from **5:30PM-7:00PM** (*please note new time*) and end each week with a meal shared with the High School Youth. Get ready for your kiddos to have some faith-filled fun! Contact Melissa Berghausen at the parish office or at mberghausen@stmargaretstthomas.com. Our first activity for the Junior Youth Group will be on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225-336-8778 or via email: jjohnson@diobr.org

YUMMY FOR YOUR TUMMY ON JANUARY 13, 2024 IS CANCELED.

RISE UP IN SPLENDOR

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Join Bishop Michael Duca to celebrate couples married for 25, 50, or 65 years or more on **Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00PM** at Most Blessed Sacrament in Baton Rouge. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the Reception afterward in the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall. Would you like to register as a participant so that our diocese can celebrate your important anniversary? Contact Tammy in the parish office by **Thursday, February 1, 2024** to register!

NEW MINISTRY ALERT

Starting in 2024 all crocheters and knitters are invited to join our group to crochet or knit items for Walking With Moms in Need or other ministries here at St. Margaret. The group will meet on Monday afternoons once a month for fellowship while creating beautiful and useful items. So if you are experienced or just interested in learning a new skill, keep an eye out for more details in upcoming bulletins!

CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations all new couples married at St. Margaret during the month of December including **Robert Montenegro & Natalie Wells** and **Lane Anthon & Rebecca Little**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact one of the clergy to schedule your wedding or to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the families and friends of the newest Catholics welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of December including **Brody Vassil** and **Therese Plache**. May these children grow in the grace and love of Our Lord forever! Contact Baleigh Henderson in the Parish Office if you're interested in having your child baptized!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING SPIRIT

The generosity of the St. Margaret/St. Thomas parishioners is abundant and overwhelming. Families and organizations opened their hearts to help 30 needy families in our local community and made Christmas brighter for 95 children and their caregivers. As volunteers talked and met with the families during this project, we listened to the difficulties they face, and we prayed with them to have strength and faith in the Lord. All expressed gratitude for the blessings they received from our community. The amazing generosity of those who participated in this project is a testament to our faith and commitment to the less fortunate. A big thank you from your St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. We are so grateful for your giving heart.

LORD, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

SHINE YOUR LIGHT ON YOUR SERVANTS, LORD

Please join our Prayer Line Ministers as we pray for the following community members:

Cindy Brasington, Sarah Marie Caldorera, Nancy Campeaux, Cole Catalano, Polly Chatelain, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Taffy Coleman, Remy Cramer, Irene Good DeMars, Hattie Davis, Shellie Domiano, Sr. June Engelbrecht, Kurt Evans, Larry Evans, Elise “Breezy” Fischer, Rose Gauthier, Michelle Kling, Rachel Kling, Tammy Hamilton, Tommy Hebert, Barbie Martino Henegan, Mary E. Herbert, Bill Hoover, Ensley Howard, Leon V. Latino, Jr., Gregg Mader, Earl Magner, Deacon Larry Melancon, Deacon Gary Mooney, Lachelle Morgan, Becham Mosely, Edward Murray, Sydney Ourso, Larry Pearson, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Albert Rayborn, William Schwartz, Brittany Stilley, Carolyn Toole, Trysten Tucker, Carolyn Reese Walch, those in the Armed Services and law enforcement, and all who need our prayers.

Want to add someone to the prayer list? Call the parish office for more information. Want our parishioners to pray for your intentions? Contact Rose Mary at 985.507.7487.

Women’s Prayer Breakfast

All women are invited to come together for
Breakfast, Fellowship & Prayer
Saturday, February 3, 2024
9am –Noon

St Dominic Parish Hall
Husser, LA



Guest Speaker
Marli Freas

Marli Freas is a PLPC clinical mental health counselor in Covington, La. She has more than ten years experience in a variety of Catholic ministries including Women’s ministry, children, teens, adult, RCIA, Sacramental preparation and Theology of the body.

Along with many certifications in trauma treatment, and theology, Marli holds a master of arts degree in religious education from Loyola University and a Master of Science degree in clinical mental health counseling from Divine Mercy University. She combines the experience of the classroom teacher with the heart of a counselor to serve those following Christ find meaning and purpose in the journey. She celebrates her Catholic faith with her husband, Jason, and their three children, Julia, Gabriel, and Giavanna.

RSVP by January 28th to Carol Reynolds at 985-320-0051

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Weekend of December 30/31, 2023
Regular Collection

\$11,506.00

The **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Collection** totaled:

\$2,124.00

The Second Collection next weekend
will be for our local
St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity to our ministries!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Joseph Hanewinkel, Sr. by Joe & Lucie Hanewinkel.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Shelly Cyrus, Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Fred Gauthier, Ricky Genre, Dorothy Reese Jones,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Carlos Kepke, Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Adam Mocsary, George Navarre, Patty Neihaus,
Sue Novak, June Koles Olah, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Chuck Stumpf, Mike Stumpf and Glen Wales

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Adrian, Bud & Joan Bailey, Lloyd Dominguez,
Clarence & Faye Landeche, John LaGrange and Charles & Marie Stumpf

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:00AM Mass

The Missa Pro Populo (The Mass for all the Parishioners)

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 5:30PM Mass

Helen & Lee Gottschalk

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, No Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Thursday, January 11, 2024, No Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Friday, January 12, 2024, No Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

There will be NO daily Mass from **Wednesday, January 10, 2024** through **Friday, January 19, 2024**. Fr. Paul will be on pilgrimage to France during this time. Confession and weekend Masses will be covered by other priests. We WILL have Adoration on Wednesdays. Please pray for Fr. Paul's safe and blessed journey!

PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament is offered weekly at 4:00PM on Thursday and on Saturday at 3:00PM at St. Margaret Church or by acceptable scheduled appointment with a priest.

MARRIAGE

Interested parties should contact the parish office at least six (6) months prior to their desired date and must complete an acceptable Marriage Preparation Program.

BAPTISM

Contact the parish office for preliminary information and to schedule a home visit from the Baptism Prep Team.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Visits to the hospitalized and infirm are made regularly. Contact the office for a priest or deacon for home or hospital visits.

FUNERALS

Call the parish office during normal hours for scheduling. After hours, please leave a message on the emergency line at extension 106.

OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil-4:00PM - St. Margaret Church
Sunday-8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel
10:00AM & 5:30PM - St. Margaret Church

Daily Masses

No Monday Mass
Tuesday through Friday-7:00AM
St. Margaret Church

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday-7:30AM-8:00PM
Concluding with Benediction
St. Margaret Church

CLERGY & STAFF

PASTOR

Father Paul August Gros

DEACONS

Deacon William "Byrd" Corbett
Deacon Tim Messenger
Deacon Randall Waguespack

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary E. Herbert
(Pastor's Administrative Assistant)
Tammy Resetar (Receptionist)
Lucie Hanewinkel (Contributions Manager)
Gill Scioneaux (Maintenance Supervisor)

PASTORAL STAFF

Baleigh Olah Henderson
(Religious Education &
Communications Coordinator)
Melissa F. Berghausen (Youth Minister)

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Epiphany of the Lord
Gather Hymnal Number 1011

Isaiah 60:1-6

"Nations shall walk by your light."

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Jews and Gentiles are co-heirs.

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi visit from the east.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 13/14, 2024

1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 7, 2024

KC 4th Degree Pulled Pork Dinner Ticket Sales!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

11:15AM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6)**, Hall of Saints

11:15AM—**Family Faith Formation**, St. Margaret Room

11:15AM—**Reconciliation (Grade 3)**, St. Margaret Church

6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades 7-11)**, Hall of Saints

Monday, January 8, 2024

5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—**St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**, Seton Room

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, Cecilia Room

6:00PM—**Youth Group Core Team Meeting**, John Paul II Room

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

No Daily Mass Today!

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—**Hungarian Language Class**, Seton Room

6:30PM—**Open Doors (OCIA/OCIC)**, Vianney Room

6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, John Paul II Room

7:00PM—**KC 4th Degree Meeting**, Goretti Room

Thursday, January 11, 2024

No Daily Mass Today!

11:00AM—**KC 4th Degree Pulled Pork Dinner**, Parish Hall

4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

Friday, January 12, 2024

No Daily Mass Today!

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, January 13, 2024

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church



FEED OUR YOUTH

Use the QR code here to access the sign-up genius to feed the youth on Wednesday nights!

