

MAY 4/5, 2024

THE PEW BUDDY

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

“As the Father
loves me, so I
love you.”

~John 15:9



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



PONDERINGS OF THE PEDAL-N-PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! Our second reading this Sunday follows along the same theme as our Gospel. It is the theme of God's love. Here St. John coins the extremely popular phrase "God is love." And yes! We must remember that God **IS** love...it is not that He just loves but is the very essence of Love itself! Many people in our western culture like this phrase because in their minds it gives them license to do whatever they want. The problem with this, is they fail to understand the *true* implications behind this phrase. The world often defines "God" and "love" in its own way.

For many folks "love" is nothing more than a feeling. But the kind of love that St. John is speaking about is the kind of love expressed in making a gift of oneself for the good of another *even over and above our own good*. Thus, true love cannot be separated from the moral truth of God's commandments and the law that He instilled into His creation (we call this the natural law). Jesus himself says "**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**" (**Jn 14:6**) When love separates itself from any one of these aspects then it ceases to be true love.

To put it bluntly - love cannot be separated from the cross. For St. John goes on to say, "**In this way, the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only son into the world so that we may have life through him.**" (**1 Jn 4:9**) God does not just tell us he loves us, but he proves it in an extraordinary way by sending his only Son into the world to die a terribly humiliating death on a cross.

God's love is supreme because it is THE supreme gift of self, which requires the supreme suffering of the cross. With all that in mind, the world should be challenged to rethink the way they use the phrase "God is love." And we, as Christians, are challenged to show the world what it really means!

Have a wonderful week!

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

MAY CROWNING

On **Sunday, May 5, 2024**, after the **10:00AM** Mass, our PSR students will participate in our annual May Crowning in the piazza in front of the Church. Young people (and old ones too!) are invited to bring live flowers to place at the base of the statue of the Blessed Mother. During the month of May, we pray for all of our Mothers as we ask the Blessed Mother's intercession that we might grow to be more like her in faith, love and charity! Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

WELCOME BISHOP DUCA

Our eleventh graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the **5:30PM** Mass on **Sunday, May 5, 2024**, and Bishop Duca will be our celebrant. Please join us in prayer for these young men and women in these next steps of their sacramental journey!

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the families and friends of the newest Catholics welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of April including **Mason Griffin** and **Reese Judice**. 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!

YUMMY FIESTA

Cinco de Mayo Celebration is the theme for May's "Yummy for Your Tummy" to be held in the parish hall on **Saturday, May 11, 2024**, at **5:00PM**. Bring your favorite tacos, burritos, nachos, guacamole, chips & salsa to share and grow in community while getting to know your fellow parishioners!

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our final installment this year of "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be held on **Sunday, May 19, 2024**, from **6:45PM** until **8:00PM** in the St. Margaret Room. Becky Eldredge will be this month's presenter for her presentation entitled "Happiness That Lasts Past Happy Hour: Spiritual Life Hacks." Spread the word about learning the faith!

CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations all new couples married at St. Margaret during the month of April including **Mary Claire Hoover & Leon Latino, III**; **Amanda Riviere & Hamilton Moak**; and **Mallory Picard & Dylan Larkin**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact one of the clergy or Baleigh Henderson to schedule your wedding or to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a transformative process that invites non-baptized adults and baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church to explore, learn, and grow in their faith. St. Margaret's OCIA program will have 3 inquiry sessions on the following **Wednesdays: May 22, June 19 and July 17, 2024**, at **6:30PM** in the Hall of Saints. These inquiry sessions will give you the opportunity to ask questions you may have and to find out more about our OCIA program which will officially begin on **August 14, 2024**.

LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are given the model of motherhood. When the angel Gabriel appeared to her, Mary accepted the invitation to be the mother of Jesus, who is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). Her unexpected pregnancy presented many challenges. Yet while the path laid before her was not easy, Mary chose to give of herself in sacrificial love.

Mothers with unexpected or challenging pregnancies can likely relate to the experience of our Blessed Mother, as they, too, often face challenging circumstances in answering God’s call to welcome new life. During times of difficulty and anxiety, we pray that Our Lady will draw pregnant mothers close to her heart and, through her intercession, bring comfort, encouragement, and joyful hope. In bravely living out their vocation, mothers reflect the sacrificial love of Christ on a daily basis. With the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life as our guide, may we work to support all mothers, especially those who are most in need.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Pray the “Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life” (bit.ly/mother-of-life) for all expectant mothers facing difficulties or challenges.
- Fast from television or social media for the day. Instead, spend time reflecting on how God is asking you to support pregnant women in difficult circumstances.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Read Pope Francis’ reflections on our Blessed Mother and the gift of motherhood in “Our Mother the Church and the Gift of Motherhood.” bit.ly/pope-francis-motherhood

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:
www.WalkingWithMoms.com

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YES, LORD, I AM LISTENING

“The Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening.” Is your love for the Lord leading you to grow in holiness as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225-336-8778 or via email: jjohnson@diobr.org

THE LORD WORKS WONDERS

The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power.

HEALING POWER: PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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

Walter Barado, Sr., Cindy Brasington, Virginia Caffrey, Sarah Marie Caldorera, Nancy Campeaux, Cole Catalano, Linda Coats, Amber Stillely Cocchiola, Taffy Coleman, Phil & Debbie Cortana, Remy Cramer, Bill Cummer, Irene Good DeMars, Hattie Davis, Rhonda Dedman, Shellie Domiano, Sr. June Engelbrecht, Larry Evans, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Cora Fuller, Rose Gauthier, Michelle Kling, Rachel Kling, Delta Kovach, Tammy Hamilton, Tommy Hebert, Barbie Martino Henegan, Mary E. Herbert, Bill Hoover, Leon V. Latino, Jr., Gregg Mader, Earl Magner, Charmaine Mocsary, Joseph Mocsary, Lachelle Morgan, Becham Mosely, Chip Norman, Sidney Ourso, Larry Pearson, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Mary Prokop, Albert Rayborn, Patrick Riche, C.W. Sandufer, William Schwartz, Gene Simoneaux, Brittany Stillely, Joseph Stolf, Diane Sudkamp, Carolyn Toole, Trysten Tucker, Carolyn Reese Walch, Jackie Wedge, 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.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection** for the
weekend of April 27/28, 2024,
totaled:

\$12,386.00.

The **Catholic Home Missions
Special Collection** totaled:

\$909.00.

The **Special Collection**
next weekend is for the
Catholic Communication Campaign.

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity to our ministries!

IS MOTHER'S DAY
DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

**LOSS AND
LONGING MASS**

A Mass for those who have lost
children, lost their mother, who
struggle with infertility or who
have a difficult relationship
with their mother or children or
who otherwise struggle with
mother's day.

4 pm Saturday May 11
St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church
18768 Jefferson Hwy.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is burning for all those who attend St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church and St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Dee Barcia, Polly Chatelain, Karen Chemay, Shelly Cyrus, Frances Dantin, Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, James Elliott Harrison, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Francis Kronlage, Helen Kropog, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Jo Ann Levet, Ray J. Louviere, Eddie Mayard, George Navarre, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner and Anne Sherman

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Dr. Pat Adema, Adrian, Bud & Joan Bailey, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange, Charles Martin, and Ed Russo

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 5:30PM Mass

George Navarre

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Easter)

Fr. Paul Gros

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Easter)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Easter)

May Waguespack

Friday, May 10, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Easter)

Souls in Purgatory

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)

PASTORAL STAFF

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Gather Hymnal Number 1077

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

God's presence is available to all.

1 John 4:7-10

God is made known to us through love.

John 15:9-17

"This I command you:
love one another."

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Ascension of the Lord
May 11/12, 2024

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Mark 16:15-20

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Happy Birthday, Fr. Paul!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee & Donut Sunday!

10:00AM—**May Crowning**, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—**Confirmation Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Monday, May 6, 2024

9:00AM—**One Book, One Church**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

10:00AM—**St. Thomas Altar Society**, St. Thomas Chapel

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

6:00PM—**One Book, One Church**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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

7:00PM—**Knights of Columbus**, St. Margaret Room

7:00PM—**Ladies Auxiliary**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Parish Office Closed from 8:00AM until 1:00PM!

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

9:00AM—**Staff Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:00PM—**OCIA Catechist Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

7:00PM—**KC Fourth Degree Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Thursday, May 9, 2024

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

Friday, May 10, 2024

Parish Office Closed for Staff Retreat!

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Catholic Communication Campaign Special Collection!

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

5:00PM—**Yummy for Your Tummy**, Parish Hall

OFFICE CLOSURES

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting and on **Friday, May 10, 2024**, for a staff retreat. Please take care of any business you may have outside of this time. Thanks for your consideration!



SAVE THE DATE!

VBS 2024

JULY 8-12TH

9:00AM-12:00PM

