

AUGUST 3/4, 2024

THE PEW BUDDY

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

“I am the bread of
life; whoever
comes to me will
never hunger.”

~John 6:35



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 family in Christ,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! It is good to return home from my week vacation in Colorado. If you were able to see pictures on social media or in last weekend's bulletin, you can just image how beautiful the scenery was in Southwest Colorado. Riding a bike through the mountains, far from any trailhead, makes it even more exhilarating. But I came back refreshed and ready to jump back into ministry... Yes, with a few bumps and bruises, but through the intercession of my guardian angel (who I invoke every time I ride) all in one piece!!!

As the deacons mentioned last weekend in the homily, for the next four weekends, the Church has paused from Mark's Gospel in this Year B and taken a small detour through the Gospel of St. John chapter 6, which is known as the Bread of Life Discourse. It is in this Gospel passage that the church relies heavily in her Eucharistic theology. As I have preached on numerous times, the Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus Christ - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity - in what looks like bread and wine. The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the Eucharist as "the Source and the Summit" of the Christian life. In other words, it is a Source from which all graces flow because it is the presence of Jesus in our midst, and it is the Summit by which we are heading towards as we ascend the mountain of faith on our lives' Pilgrimage to full communion with Jesus one day in heaven.

I am reminded of one of the bike climbs that I did on my vacation that was a 30-mile ride. About 8 miles was uphill and at some points very steep. I had to make several stops to catch my breath and rest. But getting to the top was amazing - seeing the wildflowers and God's creation that surrounded (see the pics on the back cover of the bulletin). The beauty was so "out of this world" that I can see why some of the saints used "ascending a mountain" as an analogy to the Christian life. It is challenging fighting against the temptations of the flesh, the world, and the devil (like ascending a mountain), but once we are at the top (heaven) all the struggles of the ascent will not matter any longer, while the beauty and joy of being in communion with God, who is Love, will far surpass the efforts we made in this world to grow in holiness.

Finally, I felt moved knowing that the church will be reading from the Bread of Life Discourse for the next several weekends and that she just concluded a grace-filled Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN this past July 17-21 in which over 50,000 of the faithful were in attendance, including Bishop Duca and many from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, to speak out against the blasphemous opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France. What we see on display is classic spiritual warfare, where the church is trying to bring revival and renewal to faithful devotion to her holiest treasure in the Eucharist, Satan and his minions are mocking it in a way that seems unprecedented for our day. If you do not know what I am speaking about, just look up "*opening ceremony for the 2024 Olympics and mockery of the Last Supper*" on an internet search engine.

Blasphemy, which is to act or speak against God in a sacrilegious way, is by far one of the worst sins of pride. It is certainly no coincidence that within 24 hours Paris, known as the “City of Lights”, underwent a blackout in which the entire city was in darkness, except for one building - the Basilica of Sacré-Coeur (The Sacred Heart), which the Eucharist has been in perpetual adoration for the last 135 years! Is God trying to say something?

How shall we respond? Certainly, through prayer, adoration and making acts of reparation particularly to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Face of Jesus for the sins directly against God. I plan to speak more about this in my homily for this weekend! Boycotting the games may be something else you feel called to do.

Have a wonderful week!



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

YUMMY BACK TO SCHOOL

In honor of the beginning of a new school year, our August Yummy for Your Tummy is titled “Bless the Backpack” and will take place on **Saturday, August 10, 2024**, after the 4:00PM Mass in the parish hall. Bring your favorite school lunch with you to share with our community. Ahh, remember those buttery, lunch lady yeast rolls?!

REGISTER FOR PSR

PSR classes will begin on **Sunday, August 11, 2024**, with a similar schedule as last year: K-6 from 11:15AM until 12:30PM on Sunday morning after the 10:00AM Mass and grades 7-11 after the 5:30PM Mass from 6:45PM until 8:00PM. We are looking forward to another great year! Registration forms can be picked up in the front of the church or can be printed out on our website to be submitted. PSR policies are also available on the website!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Interested in serving as a Eucharistic Minister? A Eucharistic Minister serves, distributes, and administers the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Holy Communion or Eucharist of the Mass. There will be a MANDATORY training session for all new and current Eucharist Ministers on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**, at **6:00PM** in St. Margaret Church. Fr. Paul and Deacon Byrd will share theology and practicality of administering the Blessed Sacrament. Please contact Tracy Andry at 225.485.5215 if you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

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

\$15,291.00.

The **Priests Retirement
Second Collection** totaled:

\$2,400.00.

There is not Second or Special Collection next weekend.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

WORK FOR FOOD THAT ENDURES

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Ever thought about becoming a Catholic? Know of someone in your family who is interested in learning more about the faith? Invite them to participate in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). There is also an equivalent ritual for children (OCIC). 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. The St. Margaret OCIA program will begin **Wednesday, August 14, 2024**, at **6:30PM** in the Hall of Saints. For more information, please contact Darlene at darlenemkg@icloud.com or Kristi at Salon51tan@gmail.com or call the parish office.

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

"Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, is gearing up for a new year. On **Sunday, August 18, 2024**, at **6:45PM**, Fr. Paul Gros will be presenting his discussion titled "Understanding the Brew-tiful: The Apparitions of Medjugorje" Spread the word about learning more about your faith!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer who possesses carpentry skills to lead a project to construct a 5' x 5' deck and steps on the south side of the parish hall. We are also looking for a few volunteers to assist in this project. If you are available, please contact Deacon Tim at 419.957.9848. Thank you.



To be truly
WISE

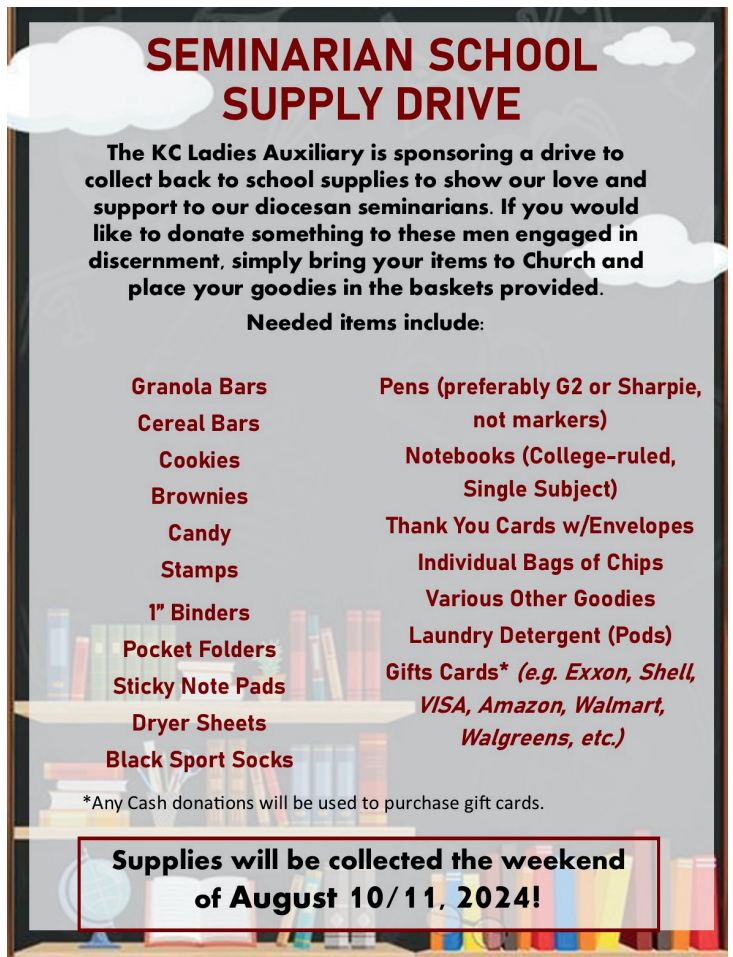
MP3
MUSIC PRAISE
PRAYER PLAY

Join us for our first MP3 of the school year. Enjoy an evening of play, praise, and prayer. Register in advance: <https://tinyurl.com/4vk5rmms> and pay \$10 at the door for a night of fun!

August 16th

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

St. Michael High School
Multipurpose Gym



SEMINARIAN SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The KC Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a drive to collect back to school supplies to show our love and support to our diocesan seminarians. If you would like to donate something to these men engaged in discernment, simply bring your items to Church and place your goodies in the baskets provided.

Needed items include:

Granola Bars	Pens (preferably G2 or Sharpie, not markers)
Cereal Bars	Notebooks (College-ruled, Single Subject)
Cookies	Thank You Cards w/Envelopes
Brownies	Individual Bags of Chips
Candy	Various Other Goodies
Stamps	Laundry Detergent (Pods)
1" Binders	Gifts Cards* (e.g. Exxon, Shell, VISA, Amazon, Walmart, Walgreens, etc.)
Pocket Folders	
Sticky Note Pads	
Dryer Sheets	
Black Sport Socks	

*Any Cash donations will be used to purchase gift cards.

Supplies will be collected the weekend of August 10/11, 2024!

EAT THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.

BOOK OF MATTHEW BIBLE STUDY

Dive into the story of how Christ established His kingdom in “Matthew”, a 24-part bible study featuring Jeff Cavins’ videos. The study will be on Thursday evenings from **6:00PM** until **8:00PM** in the Hall of Saints beginning **August 22, 2024**. Jeff Cavins explains how Jesus is challenging and empowering us to achieve a new level of holiness and how, to live it, we must be thoroughly immersed in the kingdom of heaven. The cost for the workbook and online video access for one year is \$25 per person. Please complete the registration form on our website or at the parish office. For more information, contact Jennifer Batson at 817.269.7482 or jen.batson64@gmail.com.



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In Evangelium vitae, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that, “A mother welcomes and carries in herself another human being, enabling it to grow inside her, giving it room, respecting it in its otherness” (EV 99). Often the first and most basic way that a mother welcomes and cares for her child is by attending to her own health. In doing so, she ultimately contributes to the wellbeing of her child, as the health of mother and child are inextricably connected. After her child is born, a mother’s devoted care continues as she nurtures this new life and attends to her child’s every need.

As healthcare costs continue to rise, obtaining access to adequate medical care can be challenging, particularly for single women in poverty. According to 2014 statistics, 75 percent of women who chose abortion were low income. The financial strain of medical care can often place significant burdens on both pregnant and parenting mothers. Data from 2016 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that 15 percent of women in the United States

received inadequate prenatal care. As we walk with mothers in need, we pray that our efforts will help mothers and their children gain access to quality, life-affirming medical care and address this fundamental need.

ACT (choose one)

- Seek the Blessed Mother’s intercession for mothers and children by offering a Rosary (bit.ly/how-to-pray-rosary) for the featured intention.
- Give up sleeping on your pillow one night. Offer this small sacrifice for mothers and children who have difficulty accessing adequate medical care.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

St. Monica (bit.ly/about-st-monica), mother of St. Augustine, spent much of her life as a single, widowed mother, dedicated to caring for her children. May we seek her intercession for all mothers facing difficulties.

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Josh Tye by Kim Navarre.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 3, 2024, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Edward Joseph Asaro, Myrtle T. Aucoin, Philip Brabham, Theresa Christina, Karen Chemay, Shelly Cyrus, Joseph Andrew Dick, June Fos, Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Vincent & Pam Gaeta, Homer Gaspard, Fred Gauthier, Rose Gauthier, Ricky Genre, James Elliot Harrison, Jr., Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Leon Latino, Jr., Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere, George Navarre, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Joe, Mary & Raymond Resetar and Anne Sherman

Sunday, August 4, 2024, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Adrian, Bud & Joan Bailey, Fr. Mark Beard, Nancy Campeaux, Melissa Degenhardt, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange, Clarence & Faye Landeche, Charlie Martin, Charles & Marie Stumpf and Chuck Stumpf

Sunday, August 4, 2024, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, August 4, 2024, 5:30PM Mass

George Navarre

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (The Transfiguration of the Lord)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Joseph Tantillo, Jr.

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Dominic)

Benjamin Delaune

Friday, August 9, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

All First Friday Mass Attendees

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Rose & Fred Gauthier** donated by Mark Chemay. If you would like to have flowers given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, call the parish office to schedule in advance.

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

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1144

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

In the midst of human grumbling and doubt, God remains faithful.

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Put away your old self and let Jesus' love define you.

John 6:24-35

The bread of life does not perish but endures forever.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 10/11, 2024

1 Kings 19:4-8

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

John 6:41-51

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!
OCIA Inquiry Outside All Masses!
Coffee & Donut Ministry!

Monday, August 5, 2024

8:00AM—**Food Distribution Volunteer Training**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
10:00AM—**St. Thomas Altar Society**, St. Thomas Chapel
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room
6:30PM—**Knights of Columbus Faith Formation**, St. Margaret Room
6:30PM—**Ladies Auxiliary Faith Formation**, St. Maria Goretti Room
7:00PM—**Knights of Columbus Meeting**, St. Margaret Room
7:00PM—**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

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

Thursday, August 8, 2024

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

Friday, August 9, 2024

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled for Today!

Saturday, August 10, 2024

Seminarian School Supply Drive!
OCIA Inquiry Outside All Masses!
3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church
5:00PM—**Yummy for Your Tummy**, Parish Hall

