

NOVEMBER 2/3, 2024

THE PEW BUDDY

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

*"You are not far from
the kingdom of God."*

~Mark 12:34

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

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PONDERINGS OF THE PEDAL-N-PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! Yes, we need peace in our hearts, in our family and in our country. Every four years I usually give a homily on voting as a Catholic. This year I honestly felt like God was simply asking of me to leave it out. I guess, like me, you may be tired of it saturating our TV news outlets and social media. However, having said that, the last homily I gave on voting as a Catholic (the premise of the homily was – “BRING JESUS INTO THE VOTING BOOTH”) a gentleman commented after Mass that he did not appreciate the homily because he gets enough politics at work and doesn’t need it at Mass. He quickly left the Church before I could respond. But his comment pointed to a bigger problem – many Catholics fail to make Jesus Lord in ALL parts of their lives including their politics. The Vatican II Council stated this:

One of the gravest errors of our time is the dichotomy between the faith which many profess and the practice of their daily lives. . . . Let there . . . be no such pernicious opposition between professional and social activity on the one hand and religious life on the other. . . . It is their task [i.e., the task of the Catholic laity] to cultivate a properly informed conscience and to impress the divine law on the affairs of the earthly city. (Gaudium et Spes, n. 43).

Thus, our Catholic faith should absolutely inform our political options and who/what we vote for, because pulling that lever has an impact in shaping our society for better or worse which has an impact on spreading the Gospel message. This makes actively participating in our democratic elections a moral obligation (though one may abstain from voting for one candidate or the other or one issue or the other in good conscience, BUT only after a deliberate understanding of the platform and issues at hand considering our Catholic principles. Note this does not mean failing to participate because of apathy or indifference).

Several years ago, the bishop released a voter guide to help form the conscience of Catholics called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” There are six areas of priority when it comes to forming one’s conscience. They do not all hold the “same weight,” nor should they be treated as a “seamless garment,” but some should be considered as more important than others. The first being an example of that:

1. The Protection of the dignity of all Human Life from conception to natural death. This means especially protecting the most vulnerable.

Pope St. John Paul II stated that a society is only as good as it treats its most vulnerable. The document goes on to say this:

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. Such actions are so deeply flawed that they are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. These are called “intrinsically evil” actions. They must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned.

A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia. (n. 22)

PONDERINGS CONTINUED

Pope St. John Paul II made it clear that upholding all other rights while disregarding the right to life is an illusion:

Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination. (n. 38)

2. The protection of marriage and family as defined by God’s precepts.

Of course, marriage and family are the foundation of society. If the family goes...so goes society. If we get this wrong, again like the protection of the dignity of life, it’s hard to get everything else right.

3. Protection of Religious liberty.

Religious liberty is not just the right to worship God on Sunday within the walls of the Church. But it also means the right for one to exercise one’s moral and religious beliefs even outside the walls of their church or home. This would be the right from someone to legitimately object to having to do/or not do something that goes against their religious/moral beliefs in the workplace, at school or the public square. An example of this would be coercing a Catholic employer to provide medical coverage for abortion, abortifacients, or contraception to their employees.

4. A concern for the growing disparity between rich and poor; protection of the middle class.

A concern and assistance to those who are in need for basic rights like food, shelter, education, and clothing is an important issue. Unlike abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, Catholics can have legitimate disagreements about how best to approach this social issue, while, at the same time, cannot ignore it nor disregard it.

5. Care for migrants.

Obviously, this has become a hot button issue in recent times and an extraordinarily complex issue at that. When speaking about immigration though, we can’t “throw out the baby with the bathwater”. At one point in history all our ancestors came here as migrants. But, having said that, we must be clear that a country has a right and duty to protect its citizens and secure its border first. It’s like the oxygen mask on an airplane – the instructions are always to place the oxygen mask on yourself before you place it on another. We must help ourselves become a stable society (which doesn’t mean open borders) before we can help others. This means a country has a right and duty to vet those seeking to make their home here, assisting them in enculturating into society once here legally and even deporting those who are a common threat to society. Trent Horn, a Catholic apologist, has a good article about the Catholic understanding of deportation – <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/illegal-immigration-and-the-morality-of-deportation>.

6. Avoidance and protection from unjust war, terror, and violence

In the end, please pray, pray, pray for the integrity of our election, those who will be elected and for a true “fear of God” and “love of God” in the hearts of our citizens. And remember BRING JESUS WITH YOU INTO THE VOTING BOOTH.

Have a wonderful week!



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

FALL FESTIVAL AUCTION ITEM DROP OFF

St. Margaret Festival Day is **Sunday, November 17, 2024**. We will be accepting auction donations (new and handcrafted items) in the parish hall before and after Masses **November 2, 3, 9 and 10**. Remember, shirt orders are due **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. We are also seeking volunteers to help at the festival. Use the QR code here or contact Gina Little at 504.237.7105 or glittle1985@gmail.com. Our next planning meeting is on **Thursday, November 7, 2024**, at **5:45PM** in the Hall Of Saints. All are welcome!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SILVER ROSE PRAYER SERVICE

Please join the Knights of Columbus and Mondays with Mary ministry on **Monday, November 11, 2024**, at **5:45PM** in St. Margaret Church for a special rosary and prayer service to honor the patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe. All are welcome to come hear the telling of the miracle that occurred in 1531 in Mexico with the appearance of Our Lady. More than 30 million indigenous people converted to Catholicism during the next decade. We will affirm our devotion to Our Lady and to protect life, especially the blessed and innocent unborn, those in most need of protection. Please call Glenn Young at 225.964.0947 for more information.

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be this **Sunday, November 10, 2024**, at **6:45PM**. Nicole Jones, Digital Media Manager for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, will present "Sipping Slowly & Savoring Fully: The Eucharist & Renewal." Join us and Nicole for more information on our beautiful sacrament and learn more about your faith!

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Join our Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, November 9, 2024**, at **9:00AM** to help place American flags on the 137+ graves of those buried in our cemetery who have served our country in the military. These flags will be displayed for the week following **Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11, 2024**. We will meet again the following **Saturday, November 16, 2024**, to pick up the flags. Please pray for the souls of our departed veterans and their families!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS YOUR HELP THIS CHRISTMAS

Your St. Margaret/St. Thomas St. Vincent de Paul Conference is looking for individuals, families, or service-oriented groups interested in adopting a family for Christmas this year. We typically receive requests from our local schools to assist needy families as well as calls from people living in our immediate area pleading for help. Thanks to the generosity of many, last year 91 children experienced the blessing of gifts that included toys, clothing, and food at Christmas. We all recognize that higher living costs and utility expenses will create an even greater need this year for many families in our area. We suggest two gifts per child with each gift ranging from \$20 to \$40. If you or your organization feel called to adopt a family this year, please contact Tracy Andry at 225-485-5215 by **Friday, November 15, 2024**, and help make Christmas 2024 special for needy neighbors in our community!

PRAISED BE THE LORD


I love you, Lord, my strength; my rock, my fortress, my savior.

THANKFUL FOR OUR SEMINARIANS


November 3-9, 2024, is National Vocations Awareness Week! Let us show our gratitude to the seminarians of our diocese by donating gift cards to help them with anything they may need. Our Vocations Committee will be accepting gift cards from Walmart, Amazon, and Target, or cash donations after the weekend Masses **November 9/10, 2024**. You may also bring any donations to the parish office during office hours this week. Please continue to pray for these men and pray for more men to answer the call to the priesthood! For more information, please contact Carrie Cutrer at 985.969.0517.

ST.MARGARET FALL FESTIVAL COMING SOON!

Mark your calendars NOW to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patroness, St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland, on **Sunday, November 17, 2024**, beginning at **12:30PM** and lasting through **4:00PM**. There will be live music, a silent auction, bounce houses for the kids, food, face painting and more!

Walking with Mams in Need | Pray for Mams 

INTERCEDE



May each expectant mother making an adoption plan receive the support and care of the Christian community as she makes a loving choice for her child.

PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

To a woman facing an unexpected pregnancy in difficult circumstances, adoption is sometimes felt to be worse than aborting her child. In reality, placing a child for adoption is a loving, generous, and sacrificial option that demonstrates a woman's profound, long-term motherly care. In considering and choosing whether to place her child for adoption, a mother seeks what is best for her child, making a selfless act of love. Still, a woman considering adoption may experience a number of conflicting emotions. It is essential that she be supported throughout and after the process, whether she decides to place her child with another loving family or to raise her child herself.

By grace, we are made children of God through adoption and can call him, "Abba, Father!" (Rom. 8:15). This spiritual adoption also makes us brothers and sisters in the Lord. Let us call on the intercession of our brothers and sisters in heaven—the saints! Through our united prayers, may expectant mothers making an adoption plan receive the support and care of the Christian community as they make a loving choice for their children.

ACT (choose one)

- Offer this Prayer for Pregnant Mothers (walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers), praying especially for the featured intention.
- Abstain from meat or another enjoyment for one day this week.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about how you can support women by reading "Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption": respectlife.org/mothers-considering-adoption

DID YOU KNOW?

November is recognized as National Adoption Month. The USCCB offers a novena seeking the intercession of the foster father of Jesus. Consider praying the St. Joseph Adoption Novena (bit.ly/adoption-novena), at any time of the year.

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

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **October 26/27, 2024**, totaled:

\$12,685.00.

The **Second Collection** for the **Hurricane Helene Relief Fund** totaled:

\$8,315.00

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
Ray & Irene Horrell by Joe & Lucie Hanewinkel.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Myrtle T. Aucoin, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay,
Joseph Andrew Dick, Larry Evans, June Fos, Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Michelle Duhon Fruchtnicht, Homer Gaspard, Fred Gauthier, Rose Gauthier,
Ricky Genre, Jeanne Dakin Guillot, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz,
Frank & Margaret Koles, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Leon Latino, Jr., Connie Louviere,
Ray J. Louviere, Adam Mocsary, Danny Jo Moore, Sue Novak,
Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner,
Pete Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr. and Anne Sherman

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 8:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 5:30PM Mass

June Magner

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Joseph Tantillo, Jr.

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, November 8, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

George & Eric Navarre

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Eric Navarre** donated by Kim Navarre. 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

PRIESTS

Father Paul August Gros (Pastor)
Father Lazaru Panthagani (Associate Pastor)

DEACONS

Deacon William "Byrd" Corbett
Deacon Tim Messenger

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary E. Herbert
(Pastor's Administrative Assistant)
Tammy Resetar (Receptionist)
Peggy Desselle (Contributions Manager)

PASTORAL STAFF

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

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1183

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Love the Lord, your God,
with all you heart, soul and strength.

Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus' priesthood does not pass away.

Mark 12:28b-34

Love God and your neighbor as yourself.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 9/10, 2024

1 Kings 17:10-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 3, 2024

National Vocation Awareness Week Begins!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Visit the Cemetery Committee Outside of Mass!

Coffee & Donut Ministry 8:00AM ONLY!

Daylight Savings Time Ends! Turn your clocks back 1 hour!

10:00AM—**Mass at the Cemetery**, Cemetery Pavilion

11:00AM—**Blessing of the Graves**, St. Margaret Cemetery

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

2:00PM—**Sensory Mass**, St. Margaret Church

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

6:45PM—**Circle of Grace (Grade 10)**, Hall of Saints



Monday, November 4, 2024

8:15AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints

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

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



Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Day! Be Sure to Vote!

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

6:30PM—**KC Faith Formation**, St. Margaret Room

6:30PM—**Ladies Auxiliary Faith Formation**, St. Maria Goretti Room

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

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



Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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

5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room

6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall

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

Thursday, November 7, 2024

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

6:00PM—**Book of Matthew Bible Study**, Hall of Saints

Friday, November 8, 2024

9:30AM—**Divine Readers**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, November 9, 2024

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

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

