

DECEMBER 28/29, 2024

THE PEW BUDDY

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (C)

*“Let the peace of Christ
control your hearts...and
be thankful.”*
~Colossians 12:15

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,

It is very appropriate that we celebrate this Feast of the Most Holy Family this weekend within the Octave (8 days) of Christmas. Why? Because it was the Newborn King that was the “glue” that held Mary and Joseph together in the “thick and thins” of what life was dealing them at the time.

It can be quite easy to dramatize the Christmas story as being all “nice and neat.” However, it was certainly not that at all. Image having to endure 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem riding on a donkey (and being 9 months pregnant!). When you arrive in Bethlehem there is no place to stay but a stable for animals. There you give birth to your 1st born child. Though support comes with the visit of the shepherds and Magi, because King Herod has decided to murder all the young boys under the age of 2 years old in the town of Bethlehem, soon you must travel to the unknownland of Egypt where you will most likely be treated as a stranger and outsider.

I can image those uncertainties and difficulties would put stress on a marriage. Please do not think Mary and Joseph had it easy. They did not! Yet it was the One between Joseph and Mary that held them together. As their eyes laid fixed on Him, their trust grew in God providing for them and supporting them. How important it is for couples to pray together! How important it is for couples to go to Mass together! How important it is for couples to fix their eyes on this Newborn King to get them through the difficulties of life!

Like Mary and Joseph’s journey to Egypt, once a couple makes that unbreakable commitment to one another in the covenant of marriage, it can be a journey of much uncertainty. Pope Francis once said:

“Those who celebrate the sacrament [of marriage] say to one another, ‘I promise to be true to you, in joy and in sadness, in sickness and in health; I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.’ At that moment, the couple does not know what will happen, nor what joys and pains await them. They are setting out, like Mary and Joseph, on a journey together. And that is what marriage is! Setting out and walking together, hand in hand, putting yourselves in the Lord’s powerful hands. Hand in hand, always and for the rest of your lives. Do not pay attention to this makeshift culture, which can shatter our lives.”

Do not pay attention to this makeshift culture! But rather, pay attention to the Holy Family who inspires us, who challenges us and who prays for us!

Have a wonderful week!



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION SIGN UP

As part of this year of Eucharistic Revival, St. Margaret will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 6:00PM Vigil Mass on **Tuesday, December 31, 2024**, until midnight. Please consider ending 2024 and/or beginning 2025 with our dear Lord! The sign-up sheets can be found at both entrances to St. Margaret Church. If all spots are covered for a particular hour, you are still more than welcome to come! For the safety of our adorers, we do require more than one person in the church throughout the night, and Jesus is never to be left alone when He is exposed in the monstrance.

CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In observance of the New Year holiday, and to give our staff some well-deserved rest, the parish office will be closed **Tuesday** and **Wednesday, December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025**. Please tend to any business that you might have before or after these days. We hope that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

In observance of the New Year holiday, there will be no OCIA class on **January 1, 2025**. There will be no PSR classes on **December 29, 2024**. Classes will resume on **January 5, 2025**. The Youth Group will not meet on **January 1, 2025**. Mondays with Mary Ministry will not be meeting for our weekly rosary on **Monday, December 30, 2024**. Enjoy the break! Return refreshed! We wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

In remembrance of the Unborn, the St. Margaret Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a Candlelight Rosary Procession to the St. Margaret Cemetery on **Saturday, January 4, 2025**, after the 4:00PM Mass. Join us in the front of St. Margaret Church to begin this beautiful procession as we pray to our Lady for the souls of the unborn children.

YUMMY CHILDHOOD COMFORT!

Bring your favorite childhood food and join us on **Saturday, January 11, 2025**, after the 4:00PM Mass at the parish hall for our next Yummy for Your Tummy themed "Comfort Food: A Taste of Home." Join us for good food, childhood memories and fellowship!

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 **Ella Parr, Wyatt Smith, Dalton King, and June Peterson**. May these children grow in the grace and love of Our Lord forever! Contact Baleigh Henderson in the parish office if you are interested in having your child baptized!

BE PLEASING TO THE LORD

ST. MARGARET/ST. THOMAS DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY

On **January 7, 2025**, at **5:30PM**. St. Margaret/St. Thomas Disaster Recovery Ministry (formerly Thomas' Table) will have a meeting in the Hall of Saints for those who serve or who would be interested in serving in this parish ministry. As a participant there are several ways to serve others needing help after a disastrous event: hot meal program (not a traveling meal), emergency supply distribution, FEMA application intake, debris removal (site damage assessment only to help facilitate out of town volunteer groups), funding and communication.

We will discuss these opportunities, answer questions and identify those who are willing and able to serve in one capacity and area of this ministry. Although we do not experience disasters often and hurricane season is behind us, now is the time to organize and prepare responses for what may come our way in 2025.

If you have been hoping for an opportunity that will make a tangible difference in the lives of those you minister to - an opportunity to further be the hands and feet of Jesus - the St. Margaret/St. Thomas Disaster Recovery Ministry may be it!!

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 2024, please call Peggy Desselles at extension 103 after **January 1, 2025**, 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!

CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Every year the Louisiana State Knights of Columbus recognize one boy and one girl from each KC Council awarding them with a cash prize. If you are a high school senior and you would like to be considered for this honor, contact Glenn Young at 225.964.0947 for instructions/information to complete the online CYLA application form. The completed form **MUST** be emailed to rgyoung2@bellsouth.net before **Saturday, January 25, 2025**.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Join Bishop Michael Duca to celebrate couples who are married for 25, 50, 65 years or more in 2025 on **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, at **2:00PM** at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Baton Rouge. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the reception. Would you like to register as a participant so that our diocese can celebrate your important anniversary? Contact Tammy in the parish office by **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, to register!

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS HEALING HAND

Please join our Prayer Line Ministers as we pray for these community/family members and friends:

Molly Abele, Darrel Amato, Gwen Barado, Susan Basso, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Francie Bruhl, Amber Stille Cocchiola, Addi Coxem, Bill & Cynthia Cummer, Rhonda Dedman, Irene Good DeMars, Hattie Davis, Cecil Ellenberger, Sr. June Engelbrecht, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Theresa Ivanyisky, Delta Kovach, Mary E. Herbert, Stephen Ledet, Jayden Louque, Karen Macaluso, Larry, Jenn, Charlotte & Grace McKnight, Judy Monistere, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Steve Plauche, Mary Prokop, Coogan Ryan, Jules Simoneaux, Brittnay Stille, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito Tallia, Myra Timberlake, Trysten Tucker, Bonnie Walker, Lydia Watts, Jackie Wedge, Delores & Keith Wheat, those in the Armed Services and law enforcement, and all who need our prayers.

Want to add someone to this prayer list? Call the parish office.

Want our prayer warriors to pray for your intentions? Contact Rose Mary at 985.507.7487.

HEARTFELT THANKS

The family of **Gill Scioneaux** would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Catholic Daughters who led the rosary, the clergy, altar server, organist, cantors and staff who assisted in creating such a beautiful service for Gill. Special thank you to Father Paul, Father Jamin, Janeen, Lucie and Landon for adding your special touches to the services. To the Bereavement Committee and all who donated food and drinks, the impression this ministry made on our family and friends was honestly nothing but true service and love. Our family and friends could not say enough about the wonderful people who made the whole service beautiful from beginning to end. For this, we are forever grateful.

WELCOME NEW PARISIONERS

Please give a warm welcome to these newly registered St. Margaret parishioners and their families: **Michael & Angel Duhe'**, and **Gina, Lane & Makenzie Clement**. Thank you for becoming members of the St. Margaret community. Remember to "officially" register if you have not done so; registration forms are available on our website or in the parish office. Family members are also asked to register when they turn 18 years of age. Come grow with us on our journey toward the truth which is God's love! thought

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **December 21/22, 2024**, totaled:

\$14,900.00.

The Second Collection next weekend is for the **Building & Maintenance Fund!**

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
Larry J. Evans by his Family.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 28, 2024, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Mytle T. Aucoin, Catherine M. Barbier, Dr. Andrew & Olga Bartosh,
Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Martha Brown, Karen Chemay,
Merrill Cooper, Joseph Andrew Dick, Larry J. Evans, June Fos, Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Fred Gauthier, Ricky Genre, Fay Harrison,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Frank & Margaret Koles, Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere, Patti Niehaus,
Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Tres O'Keefe, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso,
Sal Pellittieri, Sr., Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Chuck Raborn, Sr., Gill Scioneaux, Anne Sherman, Andrew & Irene Szisak,
Paul Szisak & Julia, Joe Vaurigaud and the Andrew Waguespack Family

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Adrian, Bud & Joan Bailey, Lloyd Dominguez, Donivan Jones,
John LaGrange, Charlie Martin, Ethel Prokop, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Gill Scioneaux
and Russell Wood

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 5:30PM Mass

Shelly Cyrus

Monday, December 30, 2024, 7:00AM Mass

(Weekday in the Octave of Christmas)

Lynette Pfiffner

Tuesday, December 31, 2024, 6:00PM Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil)

Samera St. Claire

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Thursday, January 2, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Feast of Ss. Basil & Gregory)

Larry J. Evans

Friday, January 3, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Christmas)

George & Eric Navarre

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

Monday 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

The Feast of the Holy Family
Gather Hymnal Number 1007

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Jewish advice on family relationships.

Colossians 3:12-21

Living as a family and a community.

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus' parents find him
in the Temple among the teachers.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4/5, 2025

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 29, 2024

KC Consecration to the Holy Family Program!
No PSR Classes Today!

Monday, December 30, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

New Year's Eve!

Parish Office Closed Today!

No 7:00AM Mass Today!

6:00PM—**Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, St. Margaret Church

7:00PM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church



Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Happy New Year!

Parish Office Closed Today!

No Eucharistic Adoration!

10:00AM—**Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, St. Margaret Church

Thursday, January 2, 2025

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

Friday, January 3, 2025

9:00AM—**Divine Readers**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

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

5:30PM—**Respect Life Rosary Procession to the Cemetery**



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day is also a celebration in the Church of Mary, Mother of God. There will be two Masses celebrated for the feast – one on **Tuesday, December 31, 2024**, at **6:00PM** and one on **Wednesday, January 1, 2025**, at **10:00AM** both at St. Margaret. Come give thanks to God for blessing us with another year while honoring our Blessed Mother, asking her intercession and protection and the grace of a healthy and happy 2025! Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!