

FEBRUARY 1/2,2025

THE PEW BUDDY

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)

*"...my eyes have
seen Your
salvation..."*

~Luke 2:30

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! You may have noticed something a little bit different on the altar the past several weekends. What you are looking at is a chalice veil and burse. This is a practice that is encouraged but not required for Mass. In the General Instruction for the Roman Missal (the instructions on how to celebrate Mass) it states, ***“It is a praiseworthy practice for the chalice to be covered with a veil, which may be either of the color of the day or white” (GIRM 118).*** This liturgical garment was introduced in the Middle Ages and had both a practical use and a liturgical/theological meaning. The practical use was to keep the dust and insects from the sacred vessels and the host that was to be consecrated. The theological meaning is far more significant and goes back to the Book of Exodus in which God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle (tent) for the Ark of Covenant (**Exodus 35-40**). The room that contained the Ark was called the Holy of Holies and was veiled from the outside. This veil was embroidered with the stars and angels to emulate the heavens. Hundreds of years later in 966 BC, King Solomon completed building the Temple in Jerusalem, which was patterned off of the Tabernacle that Moses built in the desert. It too had a Holy of Holies at the very top of the Temple which housed the Ark of Covenant. This Holy of Holies was also veiled with a much larger, but similar, veil.

When Jesus died on the cross, St. Matthew tells us in his Gospel that the veil was torn from top to bottom - ***And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50).*** This torn curtain, or veil, at the death of Jesus signified the transition from the Old Covenant to the consummation of the New Covenant promised by Jesus at the Last Supper: ***“And likewise He took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood’(Luke 22:20).***

The removal of the chalice veil in the liturgy signifies the transition from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the “heavenly liturgy.” Despite the barrier of our unworthiness, the unveiling of the chalice invites us to enter into the celebration of the sacred mysteries. When the veil is removed, the splendor of the chalice is exposed.

So next time you are at Mass, as the deacon removes the veil, be reminded that we are now entering into the TRUE Holy of Holies, which is the heavenly liturgy. Here we join our own hearts to the heart of Jesus as the Holy Spirit makes present that one true sacrifice, which is the sacrifice of the cross, and Jesus offers Himself along with us to the Father.

Have a Wonderful Week!

PS PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THIS WEEKEND IS THE LAST WEEKEND WE WILL CELEBRATE 8:00AM MASS AT ST. THOMAS CHAPEL. 8:00AM MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST. MARGARET CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Join the St. Margaret Respect Life Ministry and the High School Youth Group for a baby shower to support our local pregnancy crisis center on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**, from **6:30PM** until **8:00PM** in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints. Baby wipes, bibs and diapers of any size are appreciated. Dinner will be served, and all parishioners are invited to attend!

YUMMY ITALIANO

Bring your favorite Italian dish such as spaghetti & meatballs, pizza, manicotti, cannoli, etc. on **Saturday, February 8, 2025**, after the 4:00PM Mass in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints for our next Yummy for Your Tummy themed “Italian Night.” Join us for good food and fellowship!



INTERCEDE



May Catholic parish communities strive to provide compassionate, tangible support to expectant moms needing assistance.

PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II applauds the daily heroism of mothers who selflessly devote themselves to their children. This modern-day saint also highlights the unfortunate reality that “these heroic women do not always find support in the world around them.” He goes on to say, “On the contrary, the cultural models frequently promoted and broadcast by the media do not encourage motherhood. In the name of progress and modernity the values of fidelity, chastity, sacrifice, to which a host of Christian wives and mothers have borne and continue to bear outstanding witness, are presented as obsolete” (EV 86).

A culture that fails to truly value motherhood naturally becomes hostile to the gift of new life. When the Church compassionately serves mothers, it witnesses to the beauty of human life. There is a great need for real, tangible assistance for expectant mothers. Christ calls us to serve those most alone and in need. In a world that often turns it back on mothers who sacrifice so much of themselves, may we, the Church’s members, rise to help mothers in need of assistance and support.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Do you regularly enjoy a meal out during the week? Or do you typically stop to get a cup of coffee each morning? Give up one of these small pleasures this week. Use the money you saved to make a donation to a local pregnancy center, food pantry, or charity that provides assistance to mothers in need.
- Pray the “Prayer for Pregnant Mothers” (walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers) throughout the next month. Consider adding it to your morning or evening prayers each day.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Join the Church’s effort to serve pregnant and parenting women in need called, Walking with Moms in Need. Take the pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community: www.walkingwithmoms.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy Father was thrilled to hear about the effort to support women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies through Walking with Moms in Need. Read more about Pope Francis’ response to this exciting initiative at walkingwithmoms.com/national-vigil-homily.

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

GOD'S FAVOR IS UPON YOU

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR PLANNING

The first planning meeting of this year's St. Joseph Altar will be on **Thursday, February 13, 2025**, at **9:00AM** in the St. Elizabeth Seton Room in the Hall of Saints. If you are interested in helping, please join us for this meeting. The Altar is scheduled for **Sunday, March 16, 2025**. For additional information, please call John or Mary Gaeta at (225) 567-2193.

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, February 16, 2025**, at **6:45PM**. Dina Depaula Dow, Director of the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, will present "Wine a Little and Laugh a Lot: Preaching the New Evangelization." Join us to learn more about your faith!



Fullness of Truth



Go Make Disciples!

The Eucharistic Revival & The Call to Evangelize

In Cooperation with the Diocese of Alexandria

Randolph Riverfront Center
707 Second St. | Alexandria, LA

4th Annual Lenten Fullness of Truth Catholic Family Diocesan Conference

March 7-9, 2025

www.FullnessOfTruth.org/ALX25

	REGULAR PRICE	BEFORE 2/15/25
General Admission (Virtual option available)	\$95	\$75
Couple	\$175	\$150
Priority Pass	\$175	\$150
Family Pass	\$195	\$175
Clergy	Free	Free
Youth Pass (with one adult)	\$25	\$20
Group Admission (5 or more)	\$85	\$65

FEATURING A SATURDAY YOUTH TRACK, HOLY MASS, CONCERTS, MOVIE & MORE!



Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr.
Bishop of Alexandria, LA



Dr. John Bergsma
Theology Professor and Author



Dr. Karlo Broussard
Apologist and Author



Paul J. Kim
Comedian, Musician, Author



Sonja Corbitt
Podcaster, TV Host & Author; Catholic Evangelista



Music by The Vigil Project

For tickets, schedule and more information, visit www.fullnessoftruth.org or call 281-358-9195.

LORD, ENTER OUR HEARTS

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

PRAYERS FOR HEALING REQUESTED

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

Molly Abele, Gwen Barado, Susan Basso, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Francie Bruhl, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Addi Coxem, Bill & Cynthia Cummer, Shirley Darouse, Rhonda Dedman, Irene Good DeMars, Hattie Davis, Cecil Ellenberger, Sr. June Engelbrecht, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Marsha Hoffman, 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, Sherry Smith, Brittney Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito Tallia, Myra Timberlake, Trysten Tucker, Bonnie Walker, Lydia Watts, Jackie Wedge, Debbie Wheat, 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.

TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SEX AND CONTRACEPTION



SARAH DENNY LORIO, PHD
BIOETHICIST

Join us for a free presentation with useful information to navigate these conversations through the lens of our faith.

FEBRUARY

THURSDAY **13** 6:30 - 8 PM

2025

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Parish Activity Center

4727 MCHUGH DRIVE
ZACHARY, LA 70791

MORE INFORMATION &
REGISTER



SJB-OLA.ORG/TALK

Sponsored by
Knights of Columbus
Pregnancy Problem Center



Pregnancy
Problem
Center

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **January 25/26, 2025**, totaled:

\$11,725.00.

The **Church in Latin America Special Collection** totaled:

\$1,064.00.

There will be no Special or Second Collection next weekend!

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
Gill Scioneaux by Carol Girdwood.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Saturday, February 1, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Adam Amato, Catherine M. Barbier, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Cherie Berteau, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Shelly Cyrus, William Dantin, III, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Barbara Haluska, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere, George Navarre, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Frank & Denise Schilling, Gill Scioneaux, Anne Sherman, Joe Vaurigaud and Yancy Watkins

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Jeanne Dakin Guillot, John LaGrange, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, Dustin Novak, Gill Scioneaux, Gerard Lou Staub and Russell Wood

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, February 3, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Dexter Rotar

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Dustin Novak

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Agatha)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 7:00AM Communion Service

(Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions)

Friday, February 7, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers on the altar this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Lynette Pfiffner** donated by Pete Pfiffner & Family. 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

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 Presentation of the Lord
Gather Hymnal Number 1195

Malachi 3:1-4

The messenger of the Lord is coming.

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus had to become like us in every way.

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus is presented to the Lord.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 8/9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

Last 8:00AM Mass at St. Thomas Chapel!

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

11:15AM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 5)**, St. Margaret Church

1:00PM—**Passion Play Practice**, Parish Hall

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

6:45PM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 7)**, St. Margaret Church

Monday, February 3, 2025

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

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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

5:00PM—**Emergency Supply Distribution Committee**, St. Elizabeth Seton 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, February 5, 2025

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

10:00AM—**Staff Faith Formation**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:30PM—**Community Baby Shower**, St. Margaret Room

6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall

Thursday, February 6, 2025

No Daily Mass Today!

No Confessions Today!

7:00AM—**Communion Service**, St. Margaret Church

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

Friday, February 7, 2025

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

Saturday, February 8, 2025

CDA Valentine Bake Sale After All Masses!

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

5:00PM—**Yummy for Your Tummy**, St. Margaret Room



COME MEET WITH JESUS!

Meeting Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and spending time with Him is a great way to prepare for all life throws at you. Come spend an hour on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. Committed adorers are always needed. Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225.921.4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.