

JANUARY 11/12, 2025

THE PEW BUDDY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)



*“You are my beloved
Son; with you I am
well pleased.”*

~Luke 3:22

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 this last weekend of the Christmas Season! Once you read this bulletin article, I will be on the tail end of my silent retreat this week. I promise I have prayed for you and all your intentions. I felt moved to give a little theology on the use of incense at Mass because I used it a good bit during the Christmas Season.

Incense at Mass – What in the world is father doing?!?! Priests often joke with each other that most Catholics either love it or hate it. I must admit, there seems to be somewhat of a friendly competition amongst some priests as to how smokey they can get the sanctuary. And I know some of my brother priests have even mischievously not put incense in the thurible – the vessel used to burn the incense – at the beginning of Mass just to see if people would cough merely at the sight of it!!! I promise I would never do that do you.

Certainly, making the sanctuary as smokey as possible is not the point. There is a theological reason it is used at the Mass that goes all the way back to Old Testament times. As we read the beginning of the Gospel of the Luke when the Angel Gabriel visited Zechariah to announce the coming birth of the John the Baptist, Zachariah was chosen by lot as a Levitical priest to burn the incense offering in the holy place of the Temple. This was a very honorable offering to make as it was the closes a priest could get to the holy of the holies where the ark of the covenant was held and where only the high priest could enter once a year to offer the Sacrifice of Atonement. What was the significance of the incense offering for the Jews in the Temple and now for us at Mass? The smoke symbolizes the prayers of the faithful drifting up to heaven. In Psalm 141, the Psalmist prays, ***"Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice"***. In the New Testament times (our times), incense also creates the ambiance of heaven: The Book of Revelation describes the heavenly worship as follows: ***"Another angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all God's holy ones. From the angel's hand, the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people. (Rev. 8:3-4)"***

Finally, incense can be used to sanctify as holy water would be used. If you notice during the Mass, the crucifix is incensed along with the nativity scene (for Christmas) or Easter candle (for Easter). The priest is also incensed, along with the congregation themselves. All this is to symbolize the sanctification of the object or person, especially as they are now offering themselves to God the Father through Jesus Christ at each sacrifice of the Holy Mass (recall that the Mass is the re-presentation of the Lord Jesus' crucifixion offered to the Father made present to us each time we attend).

In the end, the usage of incense adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell remind us of the transcendence of the Mass which links heaven with earth and allow us to enter the presence of God. Incense is not something that I use every Mass. However, it is something that the Church makes optional for *any* Sunday. Because I do not always have altar servers who are able and trained to use it (or tall enough) it is not always possible. And I want to "highlight" the solemn Masses we celebrate. Especially Masses for Holy Days like Marian Feast Days and Solemn Feast Days like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Holy Trinity, and Christ the King. Adding the incense seems to be an appropriate option for the Mass being celebrated to point to the solemnity.

Have a wonderful week!

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

YUMMY CHILDHOOD COMFORT FOOD!

Bring your favorite childhood food and join us this **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!

MONTHLY STAFF MEETING

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting. Please take care of any business you may have before or after this time. Thank you for your consideration!

CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE 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!

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be this **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, at **6:45PM**. Danielle Van Haute, Associate Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and Fr. Paul Gros will present "You Had Me at Merlot: Natural Family Planning." Join us to learn more about your faith!

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**.

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 Desselle at extension 103 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!

I, THE LORD, HAVE CALLED YOU



GATHOLIC DAUGHTERS FUNDRAISER

LADIES' NIGHT BUNCO


JANUARY 17th, 6-9pm
ST. MARGARET PARISH HALL

\$20 per person
Dinner and dessert will be served.
Join us for a night of fun!

Kindly RSVP to Sharon Miano
504-559-9863



KC Fourth Degree Knights sponsoring



Rotisserie Chicken Dinner

Large Leg Quarter, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Bread, & Dessert

Friday, January 24, 2025

Pick up time 11:00AM until 12:30PM at the Parish Hall.

\$11.00 per plate

Funds raised will benefit our charitable activities, including supporting and assisting many St. Margaret ministries and events.

Tickets will be sold outside of all Masses the weekend of January 18/19, 2025.

For more information, contact Glenn Young (225.964.0947).

ST. MARGARET MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

At the December 19th food distribution, we provided 211 families (652 people) with food. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank continues to provide awesome perishable food. Catholic Charities makes it possible by bringing all the boxes of food and perishable items and handles all of the behind-the-scenes registration reporting. Once again, we are grateful to the many parishioners who volunteer each month. The next Food Distribution is **Thursday, January 16, 2025**. Food Distribution and Registration is from **9:30AM** until **11:30AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **12:00PM**. If you already volunteer, let your team leader know that you will be able to help. If you want to get involved, please call 985.969.7477 so we can best utilize your time and talents.



HEAR THE VOICE OF THE LORD

The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

HEALING POWER: PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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

Molly Abele, Darrel Amato, Gwen Barado, Susan Basso, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Francie Bruhl, Amber Stillely Cocchiola, Addi Coxem, Bill & Cynthia Cummer, 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, Gerard Staub, Brittnay Stillely, 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.

Women's Prayer Breakfast

All women are invited to come together for Breakfast,
Fellowship & Prayer



Saturday, February 1, 2025
9:00am – 12:00pm
St. Dominic Catholic Church
Husser, LA

Guest Speaker: Noël Delery

Noël Delery was a practicing lawyer for 15 years when she attended a Catholic charismatic conference and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience led her into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, shifting her priority from her career to deepening her relationship with God, and to seek and do his will rather than her own. Consequently, Noël discerned a call to religious life, gave up her law practice and entered a religious community. For 12 years, she joyfully shared in the community's mission to form Christians in contemplative prayer and intercession. When the community closed, Noël returned to Louisiana, earned a Master's degree in Pastoral Leadership from Notre Dame seminary, and became a commissioned Lay Ecclesial minister. She is also a graduate of the Encounter School of Ministry. Noël is a trained Spiritual Director, and enjoys giving talks, and directing private and group retreats.

Come hear how God changed Noël's life and how the knowledge of his unconditional love can change yours as you learn to live your true identity as a child of God!

Please make reservations before January 27, 2025

Limited seating available

Please call if cancelling your reservations

Please call or text Carol at 985-320-0051 or email reservation to
womensprayerbreakfast24@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection** for the
weekend of **January 4/5, 2025**,
totaled:

\$12,387.00.

The **Building & Maintenance Fund
Second Collection**
totaled:

\$5,531.00.

The Second Collection
next weekend is for the 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
Jerry Adamcewicz by her Family.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Catherine M. Barbier, Dr. Andrew & Olga Bartosh, Bergeron-Plauche' Families,
Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Rose & Fred Gauthier, Ricky Genre,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Leon Latino, Jr., Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere,
George & Eric Navarre, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III,
Victor & Mary Peptone, Sidney Ourso, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner,
Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Gill Scioneaux,
Anne Sherman, Roy E. Threeton and Joe Vaurigaud

Sunday, January 12, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 12, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 12, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, January 13, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, January 17, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Anthony)

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

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 Baptism of the Lord
Gather Hymnal Number 1012

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

The servant of the Lord will establish justice.

Acts 10:34-38

God's word to Israel is fulfilled in Christ.

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Jesus is baptized and filled with the Spirit.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 18/19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Respect Life Baby Bottle Campaign Second Collection!

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

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

Monday, January 13, 2025

8:15AM—Catholic Schoolhouse, Hall of Saints

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

5:30PM—St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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

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

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

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

6:00PM—Vocations Committee Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:30PM—OCIA, Parish Hall

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

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



Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:30AM—Food Distribution, Church Grounds

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—Pastoral Council Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

5:30PM—CDA Rosary, St. Jean Vianney Room

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

6:00PM—Catholic Daughters Meeting, St. Jean Vianney Room

7:00PM—Finance Council Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room



Friday, January 17, 2025

6:00PM—Catholic Daughters Sponsored BUNCO, Parish Hall

Saturday, January 18, 2025

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

KC Rotisserie Chicken Dinner Ticket Sales!

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

How To Play Bunco

