

JANUARY 4/5, 2025

THE PEW BUDDY

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)

*"We saw His star at its
rising and have come
to do Him homage."*

~Matthew 2:2

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

WHO KNEW?

By Eleonore Stump

Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime?

In our Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born, because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born, because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too.

For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either.

But it is not powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who did not know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi did not tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King did not know.

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they did not have to figure it out for themselves either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted, too. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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.

DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY

On **Tuesday, 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!!

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!

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!

RISE UP IN SPLENDOR

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!

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Each year on January 1 the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. When we approach the manger to adore the infant Son of God, we cannot help but recognize that Mary is indeed Mother of God. The holy Nativity calls us to meditate more deeply on the mystery that God used the womb of a woman to bring salvation to the world.

This feast of Mary reminds us of the great miracle of motherhood, and it reveals how God has elevated and sanctified the vocation of mothers. We therefore invite the Blessed Mother to guide us as we seek a deeper understanding of the difficulties of motherhood. We pray that through her intercession each of our hearts may be renewed with empathy and increased awareness of the challenges that so many mothers face in welcoming and caring for the gift of life. May Our Blessed Mother inspire in us a desire and resolve to increase our compassionate care and support of mothers in need.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life (bit.ly/mother-of-life) for the featured intention.
- Create a list of ways that you can personally increase your support of mothers in need. Take your list to prayer, asking the Lord for guidance on what he is asking of you and the grace to faithfully respond.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about the challenges that mothers face and the inspiration for Walking with Moms in Need in this brief article: bit.ly/wwmin-inspiration

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year on January 22, the Church in the United States observes a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (respectlife.org/january-22). As individuals, we are each called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

THE LORD SHINES UPON YOU

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

HEALING POWER: PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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 Stillely 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 Stillely, 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.

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!

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.**

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **December 28/29, 2024**, totaled:

\$14,707.00.

The **Christmas Collection** totaled:

\$8,713.00.

The **Parish Debt Reduction Second Collection** totaled:

\$4,019.00.

The Second Collection next weekend is for the **Respect Life Baby Bottle Campaign!**

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
Joseph Hanewinkel, Sr. by Lucie & Joe Hanewinkel.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Cayden Amato, Jeremiah Amato, Catherine M. Barbier, Dr. Andrew & Olga Bartosh, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Rose & Fred Gauthier, Ricky Genre, Jeanne Dakin Guillot, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Leon Latino, Jr., Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Sidney Ourso, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Gill Scioneaux, Anne Sherman, Paul Sziszak & Julia, Roy E. Threeton and Joe Vaurigaud

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

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

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, January 6, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Christmas)

Donivan Jones

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

Stanley Davis

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Christmas)

Jeanne Dakin Guillot

Thursday, January 9, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Christmas)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, January 10, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday of Christmas)

Lynette Pfiffner

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers on the altar 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

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 Epiphany of the Lord
Gather Hymnal Number 1011

Isaiah 60:1-6

The new Jerusalem will shine in glory.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The Gentiles are co-heirs in Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi come to adore Jesus.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

The Baptism of the Lord
January 11/12, 2025

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!
Coffee & Donut Ministry!

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 6, 2025

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

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

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

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

5:30PM—St. Margaret/St. Thomas Disaster Recovery Ministry, 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, January 8, 2025

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, January 9, 2025

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

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

Friday, January 10, 2025

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Respect Life Baby Bottle Campaign Second Collection!

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

5:00PM—Yummy for Your Tummy, Parish Hall

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?!

Come spend some time with Jesus and listen for His voice this new year, it may create a new you. Eucharistic Adoration is every Wednesday from **7:30AM** until **8:00PM**. Committed adorers are always needed. Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225.921.4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

