

FEBRUARY 22/23, 2025

THE PEW BUDDY

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

*"Be merciful, just as
your Father is
merciful."*

~ Luke 6:36

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

HOW TO LOVE

By John Foley, SJ

I don't know if you have read the book, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (and it's all small stuff) by Richard Carlson. It offers advice and examples as to how we can live a loving and (more) peaceful life.

Are you interested?

One chapter shows us a way to be patient rather than upset when someone else does an annoying thing. For instance, if a car swerves in front of you, instead of your asking, "why in the '%\$#' did he do that?" ask the question, "what is he trying to teach me?" It is like a game in which everyone is wise and you want to learn.*

This new attitude can be helpful. Honestly, it softened my attitude and awakened some compassion. A Ford went through a very narrow opening behind a truck and careened into my lane with only several inches to spare. So I tried the method. Instead of leaning on the horn and exercising road-rage, I imagined asking the person who swerved what I was supposed to learn. Richard Carlson answered, learn forgiveness.

Jesus lived before Carlson, of course, but as teacher, he had also suggested a big perspective change. In Sunday's Gospel he describes people trying to bargain for everything—if someone loves you, only then do you agree to love them in return; if they run their cart over your flower-bed or nearly knock you out of their way, then you are angry and substitute bad feelings for love. After all, who could be nice to a robber in their act of overpowering you?

Jesus recommends the opposite. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Don't ask for anything in return.

Ulp.

How can we "love without return?" Or, how can we "lend money and expect nothing back"? If you get a reward for each thing you do, Jesus says, you are just like the pagans!

Ulp again. Is it even possible to just love and love and never get our own empty tank filled back up? Doesn't that lead to burnout?

Yes.

But the wonderful clue to Jesus' answer is found toward the bottom half of today's reading. He says that if we can give without guile, then we will be like "children of the Most High," who is always kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

How can God be "always kind" to us? Is it because his own needs are already filled? Does God show tender love because the divine being does not need a reward! Such a love overflows to us as we are, no matter our actions. Maybe Jesus was a model of that same love, in the divine-human form.

If we see this, if we experience it—say, in the Sacraments, or in prayer, or in another person—and if we let it in, then maybe our need-tanks will not be so empty. Maybe we can (over and over) allow ourselves to be loved, and thus team with Christ and his Abba.

Are you someone who hears what he says?

Well that is surely a change in perspective.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

MEATLESS MEAL FRIDAYS IN LENT

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Lenten meal events sponsored by your various service organizations. The meatless dinners will be on the following Fridays: **March 7, 21, 28, April 4 & 11, 2025**. Monies raised will specifically benefit the youth group's annual "Mission Krewe" and the other sponsoring organizations. Tickets will be available after Mass and in the parish office beginning this weekend. Get your tickets today!

LENT BEGINS SOON

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on **March 5, 2025**. It is a day of fasting and abstinence and is the first day of Lent. It derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday and placing them on the heads of participants. Masses on Ash Wednesday will be as follows: **7:00AM, 12:00PM** and **6:00PM** at St. Margaret. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Adoration will end on Ash Wednesday with the Benediction at 5:00PM.

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR NEWS

The St. Joseph Altar will be hosted in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints on **Sunday, March 16, 2025**, immediately following the 10:00AM Mass. Here are some events that might be of interest to you:

Votive Candles: Blessed St. Joseph votive candles are available this weekend before and after all Masses for a suggested donation of \$5.00 each. You may also pick them up from the office or at the altar.

St. Joseph Novena: The St. Joseph Novena will begin on **Saturday, March 8, 2025**. The schedule will be listed on the St. Joseph Altar flyer coming out soon. Beginning this weekend, there are receptacles right inside St. Margaret Church for depositing prayer intentions. Your intentions are wholly confidential and will be stored at St. Margaret until they are burned in the Easter Fire just prior to the Easter Vigil Mass.

Labor of Love: You are welcome to participate with the St. Joseph Altar in any way. If you wish to bake sweets, prepare a meatless vegetable casserole, or if you would like more information, please contact John or Mary Gaeta at (225) 567-2193 or (985) 320-6520.

Offerings: A special St. Joseph Altar offering envelope is included in the usual packet of envelopes for March. For visitors and those who do not use these envelopes, there will be envelopes available near the entrance of church.

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, March 9, 2025**, at **6:45PM** in the St. Margaret Room. Deacon candidate Byron Bordelon, will present "Sipping Pretty: Vizio Divina." Join us to learn more sacred art and how it enriches your faith!

FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

YUMMY LUCK OF THE IRISH

Irish or not, come join us for March's "Yummy for Your Tummy" themed "Luck of the Irish" to be held in the St. Margaret Room on **Saturday, March 8, 2025** at **5:00PM**. Bring your favorite cabbage dish (Irish or *Hungarian*) and join us for good food and to grow in community while getting to know your fellow parishioners!

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the family and friends of the newest Catholic welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of February, **Carter Louviere**. May this child 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!

CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to our newest couples married at St. Margaret during the month of February, **Blase Chaisson & Leslie Guay**, and **Ethan Nolan & Haley Porter**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact Baleigh Henderson to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

MARRIAGE WEEKEND RETREAT

We looked like the perfect couple ... But the reality of our marriage was very different. "A Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat was exactly what we needed to get our marriage back on track. We learned to communicate in ways that were deeper than we ever had shared before. We knew we had a lot of work to do but we knew our marriage was worth it." Baton Rouge Upcoming Weekend **March 21-23, 2025**. For information call 1-800-470-2230 or go to helpourmarriage.org

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

Come join us for the 2025 Crawfish Boil in honor of the seminarians. This is a great time to come and visit the seminarians and fellow parishioners. The crawfish boil will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, following the 4:00PM Mass. With your ticket, you will receive 1.5 pounds of crawfish, corn and potatoes. Tickets are \$25 each and will be sold after each Mass beginning on the weekend of **March 1/2, 2025**. Join us in this wonderful cause in supporting our seminarians as they journey to priesthood!

ARISE

DIOCESAN MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY

OPEN TO
STUDENTS
6-8 GRADE

Saturday, March 29th
1-9pm
St. Alphonsus PAC

Join Us For:

- Keynotes by Teresa LaCour
- Worship with Ryan Foulon
- Mass with Bishop Duca
- Workshops
- Confession, Adoration and lots more!

\$40 per person

Register through
your parish **TODAY!**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



THE LORD IS KIND & MERCIFUL

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, His holy name.

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, Bob Evans, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Marsha Hoffman, Theresa Ivanyisky, Delta Kovach, Tommy Hebert, Mary E. Herbert, Stephen Ledet, Jayden Louque, Karen Macaluso, Larry, Jenn, Charlotte & Grace McKnight, Judy Monistere, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pffifner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Mary Prokop, Coogan Ryan, Jules Simoneaux, Sherry Smith, Brittnay 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.

OUR 3RD ANNUAL
BELIEVE Conference
I AM THE GOD WHO HEALS YOU
EXODUS 15:26
APRIL 4-6, 2025
THE TRACY CENTER, BATON ROUGE
ADULTS: \$125 (EARLY BIRD ENDS 3/1)
STUDENTS: \$50 (EARLY BIRD ENDS 3/1)
(PRICE INCREASES AN EXTRA \$15 AFTER MARCH 1)
PRIESTS: FREE ADMISSION
(PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE & WILLING TO HEAR CONFESSIONS)
GROUP RATE: \$10 OFF PER PERSON FOR GROUPS OF 50+

MATT JOZANO
DR. MARY HEALY
FR. PHILIP SCOTT

HOST ANNE TRUFANT
REGISTER TODAY
HOST KEVIN MCCALL

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **February 15/16, 2025**, totaled:

\$13,881.00.

The Second Collection next weekend will be 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
Sidney Ourso by the Ourso Family.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Bill Dantin,
Sr. June Engelbrecht, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Judith Frantz, Christina Garcia, Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre,
Hailey & Aaron Gross, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Vernon & Dorothy Landry,
Connie Louviere, Ray J. Louviere, David Marshall, Mike Michon,
George & Eric Navarre, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III,
Sidney Ourso, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Chuck Raborn, Sr., Karen Robin, Brooklyn Sansone, Sansone Family, Ed Sarran,
Anne Sherman and Yancy Watkins

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Allen Aubert, Caleb Degenhardt, Lloyd Dominguez,
Fulton Charles Hebert, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange, Charlie Martin,
Chucky Martin, Gill Scioneaux and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, February 24, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Bulmaro Garcia, Jr.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Bulmaro Garcia

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, February 28, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Yancy Watkins

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
Sunday-8:00AM, 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

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1112

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13

David spares his enemy.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Live as spiritual, not natural beings.

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus' challenge about
loving and forgiving.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 22/23, 2025

Sirach 27:4-7

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 23, 2025

St. Joseph Candles Available Outside of All Masses!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

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

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

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

Monday, February 24, 2025

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

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

5:30PM—**Mission Krewe Interest Meeting**, St. Margaret Room

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

6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall

Thursday, February 27, 2025

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

6:00PM—**Master Planning Committee Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

Friday, February 28, 2025

No Extraordinary Events Planned for Today!

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

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

ALTAR SERVER OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of Altar Servers of any age, especially for the **8:00AM** and **5:30PM** Masses. Some of our current Altar Servers have grown up and are off to college soon. If you have made your First Communion, you are the perfect candidate to participate as an Altar Server in our liturgies. Experience the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in a whole new way. If you are interested or you have a child who is interested, please contact Kristen Beard at 985.974.8030.

