

MARCH 8/9, 2025

# THE PEW BUDDY

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

*"One does not live on  
bread alone."*

~Luke 4:4

### **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 as we begin this Season of Lent! I want to use my bulletin article space to speak about the disciplinary guidelines the Church puts forth for the faithful during the season of Lent. Again, I want to reiterate that this is not just about “following rules” for the Lord, but rather it is about love and relationship with Him. We do these penances and practices out of love for God BECAUSE HE LOVED US FIRST through His incarnation, cross and resurrection.

First, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. What does that entail? Those who are between the ages of 18 and 59 are to eat one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal. No snacks between meals are allowed including drinks other than water (soft drinks, milk, juices, etc.). However, if you are ill or have a medical condition that requires you to eat more than the prescribed guidelines for fasting, then, of course, these guidelines **do not** apply to you. This also includes receiving needed medication between meals. Again, remember this is about relationship with our loving God and not about just following rules to appease Him.

Secondly, Catholics aged 14 and older are required to abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. This is a small reminder to us about the sacrifice our Lord made for us on Good Friday when He gave up His “flesh” on the cross.

Thirdly, most Catholics take on their own personal penance during this time of Lent in addition to what is prescribed by the Church. This includes other forms of fasting (from foods, luxury items, electronics etc.), extra prayer (adding additional prayers to our daily routine like the rosary, scripture reading or a daily devotional) and almsgiving (this is giving a little extra financially to Church or to another charitable organization that serves those in need). In addition to those 3 traditional forms of penance, you may choose to give of your time in service. This might be giving more of your time (that you would otherwise spend for yourself) serving others. This might be serving at our monthly food distribution ministry, assisting one of our St. Vincent de Paul volunteers or any other way a neighbor (loved one, friend or stranger) may need your time for assistance. In the end, the goal of Lent is to deepen one's relationship with God, practice self-discipline, and prepare for the joy of Easter.

Finally, General Instruction for the Roman Missal states that *“During the season of Lent, the Church, with a spirit of penance, prepares for the celebration of Easter. The entire Lenten season...has a penitential character, reflected in the liturgy of the Mass and in the celebration of the sacraments.”* **(GIRM 373)** Because of this solemn observance, I thought it would be appropriate this Lenten Season to use a simple chant for the different Mass parts. This will include a simple Latin chant for the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).

Many Catholics believe that Vatican II did away with Latin completely. This is not actually true. In fact, the document that speaks directly about the liturgy states: *“The use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites.”* **(36)** It goes on to say that the use of the vernacular language (local language) should have a wider use in the liturgy as an advantage to the people of God; however, its use did not necessarily mean that all Latin should be precluded from the Mass.

I will speak more on this in next weekend’s bulletin article!!

Have a wonderful day!

Fr. Paul

# EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

## MEATLESS MEAL FRIDAYS

Our next Lenten Meatless Meal will be **Friday, March 21, 2025**, from **4:00PM** until **6:30PM** in the parish hall. The remaining meatless dinners will be on the following Fridays: **March 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. Get your tickets today!

## 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 3 pounds of crawfish, corn, potatoes and sausage. Tickets are \$25 each and will be sold after each Mass and in the parish office. Join us in this wonderful cause in supporting our seminarians as they journey to priesthood!

## ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

All are invited to participate, celebrate, and give glory to God in honor of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, by attending the St. Joseph Altar in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints on **Sunday, March 16, 2025**, following the 10:00AM Mass. Included will be a St. Joseph Procession from church, followed by the novena prayers and altar blessing. The meal will be served in the parish hall. The public viewing of the altar will be on **Saturday, March 15, 2025**, after the 4:00PM Mass until 6:00PM. Coffee and scones will be served. Blessed St. Joseph votive candles are still available in the office and will be at the altar for a suggested donation of \$5.00 each. Please refer to the St. Joseph Altar Flyer in last weekend's bulletin on our website for the novena schedule and additional information.

## BE A VBS VOLUNTEER

There will be a **MANDATORY** VBS Volunteer Meeting on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**, at **6:00PM** in the St. Jean Vianney Room of the Hall of Saints. If you plan on being a volunteer for our vacation bible school, please plan to attend this meeting!

## ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training for Altar Servers will be on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025** at **6:00PM** in St. Margaret Church. This training is mandatory for all **NEW** servers and suggested for all **CURRENT** servers.

## PARISH OFFICE NEWS

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting. Please take care of any business you may have in the office before or after this time. Thank you for your consideration!

## NO PSR CLASSES

There will be **NO** PSR classes on **Sunday, March 16, 2025**, due to the St. Joseph Altar. Students are encouraged to attend the Altar! Classes will resume on **Sunday, March 23, 2025**.

# CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

## PLEASE PRAYER FOR HEALING

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 Stille Cocchiola, Addi Coxem, Bill & Cynthia Cummer, Shirley Darouse, Rhonda Dedman, Irene Good DeMars, Hattie Davis, Cecil Ellenberger, Bob Evans, Marlena Everett, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Judy Hahn, Marsha Hoffman, Theresa Ivanyisky, Delta Kovach, Tommy Hebert, Mary E. Herbert, Stephen Ledet, Jayden Louque, Karen Macaluso, Larry, Jenn, Charlotte & Grace McKnight, Judy Monistere, Carrie Odom, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Mary Prokop, Coogan Ryan, Jules Simoneaux, Sherry Smith, Brittney Stille, 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.



March 5 - April 13  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

## HELP SAVE LIVES IN BATON ROUGE!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **25,000** saved babies
- More than **150** closed facilities
- More than **250** converted workers

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

**Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood (3825 Government St.)

**Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily

**Local contact:** Bridget Soileau, email: 40daysforlifebr@gmail.com

**Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up** for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

[40daysforlife.com/batonrouge](http://40daysforlife.com/batonrouge)

Parishioners are welcomed to join St. Margaret Respect Life Ministry members on **March 25, 2025**, from **11:00AM** until **12:00PM** with their presents at Planned Parenthood at 3825 Government Street in Baton Rouge.

## STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **March 1/2, 2025**, totaled:

**\$15,112.00.**

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

**\$4,763.00.**

The **Second Collection** next weekend is for our local **St. Vincent de Paul Society**.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

# BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART

Walking with  
Moms in Need

Pray for Moms



## INTERCEDE



## PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

## REFLECT

On March 25, 2020, the Church celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document, written by Pope St. John Paul II, reaffirmed the Church's constant teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life.

*The Gospel of Life* highlights the special and particular role of women in bearing the gift of life. St. John Paul II offers heartfelt thanks to "heroic mothers," who, placing their trust in God, "devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves" (EV 86). The Holy Father also outlines many challenges that expectant mothers may face, recognizing that an "unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb" (EV 58). For this reason, it is particularly important that the Church come alongside mothers, offering encouragement, assistance, and support that is life-affirming for both them and their children.

## ACT (choose one)

- Read the reflection, "He Made His Dwelling Among Us: The Annunciation and *The Gospel of Life*," ([www.bit.ly/ev-annunciation](http://www.bit.ly/ev-annunciation)) and spend time prayerfully reflecting on the gift of human life.
- Choose a day this week to fast for the featured intention.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Celebrate the gift of *The Gospel of Life* ([www.bit.ly/evangelium-vitae](http://www.bit.ly/evangelium-vitae)) by reading section 87 of this prophetic encyclical on the dignity of the human person.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There's still time for your parish to join *Walking with Moms in Need*. Visit [WalkingWithMoms.com](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com) for more information.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area: [www.WalkingWithMoms.com](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com)



Mercedarian Sisters of the  
Blessed Sacrament  
[www.mercedariansisters.org](http://www.mercedariansisters.org)

## Discernment Retreats Baton Rouge, Louisiana

For young adult women 18-35 years old

October 25-27, 2024

March 21-23, 2025

Cypress Springs  
Mercedarian Prayer Center,  
17560 George O'Neal Road  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817

Please contact Sr. Heart of Jesus, HMSS at  
[sisterheartofjesus@mercedariansisters.org](mailto:sisterheartofjesus@mercedariansisters.org)  
before making plans to attend.

## St. Margaret Vacation Bible School

June 2-6, 2025

\$30.00 Per Child

VBS 2025 will be for children grades Pre-K (4 years) to 5th grade (completed 5th grade).

**MANDATORY Volunteer Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM!**

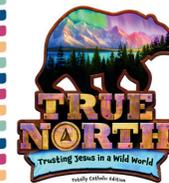
Junior High Volunteers  
(completed 6th-8th grade)  
High School Volunteers  
(completed 9th-12th grade)  
Adult Volunteers Needed!

Want to Contribute?  
Visit Our Amazon  
Wishlist!



**Registration Forms will be available soon!**

Contact Melissa Berghausen with any questions!  
[mberghausen@stmargaretstthomas.com](mailto:mberghausen@stmargaretstthomas.com)



## DO YOU NEED MARRIAGE HELP? RETROUVAILLE IS DIFFERENT

Retrouvaille Is Very Different Than Other Marriage Programs. Some spouses resist the idea of attending the program, out of concern that they will be required to expose their personal lives. None of this is true. In fact, the program is entirely unique, and most couples find that this is the very thing that worked when all else failed. We are told constantly that this is one of the best kept secrets in the world, and couples regularly comment that they wish they had done the program long before they did; That it would have saved them so much pain and anguish. Upcoming Baton Rouge Weekend **March 21-23**. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or go to [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org).

## MAUSOLEUM EXPANSION UPDATE

Our Cemetery Committee will be appearing at the Livingston Parish Council meeting on **Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:00PM** to request a waiver from the planning review process for the mausoleum expansion. We would appreciate your attendance to support the project and keep it from being treated as a "development". If you are interested in attending or have any questions, call Mark Chemay at 985.507.9304.

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of  
**Samera St.Claire** by Kim Navarre.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Saturday, March 8, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Savanna Balado, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Barry Bleakley, Marguerite Bleakley, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Bill Dantin, Sr. June Engelbrecht, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Jessica Galatas, Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Gross Family, Donivan Jones, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray J. Louviere, David Marshall, Madison Montay, George & Eric Navarre, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Karen Robin, Brooklyn Sansone, Sansone Family, Ed Sarran and Anne Sherman

### Sunday, March 9, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert, John LaGrange, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, Gill Scioneaux and Gerard Lou Staub

### Sunday, March 9, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

### Sunday, March 9, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

### Monday, March 10, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Lynette Pfiffner

### Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Jane Faucheux and Ann Heinrich

### Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Fr. Laz Panthagani

### Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

### Friday, March 14, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Gwen Delaune

## GREAT IDEA! EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING LENT!

Come spend an hour or so with Jesus on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**.  
Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225.921.4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

# PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

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## 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

*First Sunday of Lent*  
**Gather Hymnal Number 1018**

### Deuteronomy 26:4-10

I have brought you the first fruits of  
this land flowing with milk and honey.

### Romans 10:8-13

Everyone who calls on the  
name of the Lord will be saved.

### Luke 4:1-13

You shall not put  
the Lord God to the test.

### Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

*Second Sunday of Lent*  
*March 15/16, 2025*

**Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

**Luke 9:28b-36**

# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, March 9, 2025

**First Sunday of Lent!**

**Daylight Savings Time Starts!**

**Black & Indian Missions Special Collection!**

**Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!**

**Seminarian Crawfish Boil Ticket Sales!**

**Coffee & Donuts Sunday for 10:00AM Mass!**

10:00AM—OCIA Rite of Sending, St. Margaret Church

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

11:15AM—Circle of Grace (Grades 1 & 5), Hall of Saints

1:00PM—Passion Play Practice, Parish Hall

1:00PM—OCIA Rite of Election, St. Joseph Cathedral

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

6:45PM—Theology in a Bottle, St. Margaret Room



## Monday, March 10, 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, March 11, 2025

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

9:30AM—Bible Study-Prayer, St. Ignatius Room

6:00PM—Mandatory VBS Volunteer Meeting, St. Jean Vianney Room

6:00PM—Altar Server Training, St. Margaret Church

## Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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

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

6:30PM—OCIA, Parish Hall

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

## Thursday, March 13, 2025

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—Lenten Book Study, St. Margaret Church

## Friday, March 14, 2025

2:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—Stations of the Cross, St. Margaret Church

## Saturday, March 15, 2025

**Second Sunday of Lent!**

**St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!**

**Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!**

**Seminarian Crawfish Boil Ticket Sales!**

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

5:00PM—St. Joseph Altar Viewing, St. Margaret Room

