

THE

APRIL 5/6 ,2025

PEW BUDDY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...”

~John 8:7b

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

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225.567.3573

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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...and praise Him as we begin construction at St. Thomas! I would like to express my gratitude to all who were able to attend the groundbreaking ceremony this past Sunday. It was a good start to the new and improved St. Thomas Chapel.

As mentioned in my bulletin article last week, you most certainly noticed the covered statues this weekend and will remain covered until the Easter Triduum. The reason I reintroduced this tradition this year is that, by covering the statues, the Church encourages us to focus on the coming Passion Week of the Lord. Please refer to last weekend's bulletin article for more details regarding the covering of the statues during the rest of the Lenten season.

Finally, the readings this weekend encourage us to "forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead." The first reading, from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, was a passage I spent a good deal of time in prayer with during my silent retreat: ***"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*** (Is. 43). Often, we can become trapped in the past, and this can prevent us from moving forward with the Lord. It is like a "ball and chain" that we drag around, hindering us from following the Lord with "swiftness and quickness." In the context of Isaiah's words, the people are in exile, longing to return to the promised land. Isaiah tells them to remember not their past but to look to what the Lord is doing in their lives now.

St. Paul, in the second reading from the Letter to the Philippians, reminds himself and his readers: ***"Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus."*** (Phil. 3) St. Paul, of course, was not a friend of Christians in his younger years. In fact, he oversaw severe persecution against Christians in Jerusalem and consented to the murder of St. Stephen, the first martyr of the Church. Of course, we know what happened to St. Paul: Jesus met him on the road to Damascus and "opened his eyes" to the truth of the Christian faith. St. Paul is now reminding himself and his readers not to be chained to the past but rather to strain forward to Christ Jesus. This is something the woman caught in adultery would soon have to put into practice in her own life. She herself most likely was guilty of more than just adultery in her past, but now her encounter with Jesus Christ and his "eyes of mercy" has changed her life. I suspect that the devil soon tried to remind her of her past, yet Christ was now calling her forward, to leave behind her past and to strain forward to him.

My dear friends in Christ, let not our past be a "ball and chain" that keeps us from straining forward and following Jesus. As I have often said and have heard elsewhere, every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future. May the readings this 5th Sunday of Lent encourage us not to remember the past but to strain forward towards the Lord, because he is always doing something new in our lives.

Have a wonderful week!

P.S. If the rain holds off this weekend, I will be riding in the MS-150 with our St. Margaret team. Please pray for our protection and safety, and may we represent St. Margaret and St. Thomas well!

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

FINAL LENTEN MEATLESS MEAL

Our final Lenten Meatless Meal will be **Friday, April 11, 2025**, from **4:00PM** until **6:30PM** in the parish hall. The meal will feature crawfish etouffee. 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!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Come join us for the 2025 Crawfish Boil in honor of the seminarians. This is a great time to visit with 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!

YUMMY BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

Come join us for April's "Yummy for Your Tummy" themed "Breakfast for Dinner" to be held in the St. Margaret Room on **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, following the **4:00 PM Vigil Mass**. Bring some grits and eggs, bacon and biscuits, pancakes and syrup, etc. and join us for good food and to grow in community while getting to know your fellow parishioners!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

A great way to spend an hour or so with Jesus is in the silence of Eucharistic Adoration. At St. Margaret, Jesus is present on the Altar on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225.921.4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

OCIA RITE OF INITIATION

On **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, at the **4:00PM** Mass, our candidates will be received into the Catholic Church. Since we do have quite a few of these, the 4:00PM Mass will be longer than usual. Please pray for these new Catholics as they make their First Communion and Confirmation!

DO YOU CHEW GUM AT MASS?

Chewing gum is NEVER appropriate in church. Catholics, especially who will be receiving Communion, should never chew gum prior to Mass or even during Mass for they would violate the Eucharistic fast and therefore would not be able to receive Communion. Please dispose of your gum properly (not on the ground or in the flower beds) before entering our beautiful church. We have found gum stuck on the underside of our pews!

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy, remembering the message Jesus so ardently instructed St. Faustina to spread of His endless mercy and forgiveness to those who seek it. Rooted in Christ's message of Divine Mercy is trust: trust that Jesus loves us, desires to heal our souls, and is with us.

This is an especially important message for expectant mothers preparing for the births of their children. They may often be gripped by fear and anxiety, without sources of support. May we prayerfully consider how we are called to help mothers who may be struggling in a particular way. And in our own lives, each of us is invited to come to Jesus just as we are and lay our cares, fears, and anxieties upon Him. The words Christ revealed to St. Faustina, He speaks to us and all who feel afraid: "Lay your head on my shoulder, rest and regain your strength. I am always with you" (Diary, no. 848). As we seek to live out the message of Divine Mercy, we pray for the courage for all to proclaim, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

ACT (choose one)

- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (usccb.org/divine-mercy-chaplet) at 3:00 pm, the Hour of Mercy, for expectant mothers.
- Jesus spoke to St. Faustina, "Reveal all the wounds of your heart. I will heal them" (Diary, no. 1487). Expose the cuts and wounds of your heart to Christ and allow His healing mercy to reach every hurt and hidden pain through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn about St. Faustina, the Apostle of Mercy, and the message of Christ's mercy that she conveyed to mankind: www.usccb.org/divine-mercy

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a 20th century physician, wife, and mother whose feast day is celebrated on April 28. A novena to St. Gianna is available and can be prayed any time of year: walkingwithmoms.com/saint-gianna-novena.

Excerpts from Maria Faustina Kowalska, Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul, 3rd ed. (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007), 699. All rights reserved.

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

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

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BE FILLED WITH JOY

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

WE PRAY FOR MERCY ON THOSE WHO NEED HEALING

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

Molly Abele, Gwen & Walter Barado, Susan Basso, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Francie Bruhl, Amber Stillely Cocchiola, Addi Coxem, Bill & Cynthia Cummer, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Rhonda Dedman, Mark DeMarche, Irene Good DeMars, Shelli Domiano, 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, Gregg Mader, Larry, Jenn, Charlotte & Grace McKnight, Carrie Odom, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Mary Prokop, Coogan Ryan, Reynell Shorts, Jules Simoneaux, Bonnie Smith, Sherry Smith, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stillely, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito & Annie Tallia, Myra Timberlake, Trysten Tucker, Rita Rayborn Wagner, Bonnie Walker, Lydia Watts, Jackie Wedge, Debbie Wheat, Tonya 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.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **March 29/30, 2025**, totaled:

\$13,722.00.

The **Special Collection** for **Catholic Relief Services** totaled:

\$1,501.00.

There will be no Second or Special Collection next weekend!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



**St. Margaret
Vacation Bible School**
June 2-6, 2025
\$30.00 Per Child

YBS 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!




2025 St. Margaret Adult Volunteer Form



2025 St. Margaret Youth Volunteer Form



2025 St. Margaret VBS Registration



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Gwen Delaune by Kim Navarre.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Sidney Alexander, James Baillio, Bergeron-Plauche' Families,
Philip Brabham, Harold Cavallero, Jr., Harold Cavallero, Sr.,
Mary Lee Cavallero, Karen Chemay, Bill Dantin, Larry J. Evans,
June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Celeste Garcia, Homer Gaspard,
Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Gross Family,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Vernon & Dorothy Landry,
Michael Jude LeJeune, Ray J. Louviere, Adam Mocsary,
George & Eric Navarre, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III,
Sidney Ourso, Victor & Mary Pepitone, Linda Perronne,
Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr.,
Juliana Rotar, Anne Sherman and Vera Trosclair

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange,
Clarence & Faye Landeche, Landeche Family, Charlie Martin,
Ethel Prokop, Gill Scioneaux, Gerard Lou Staub
and Charles & Marie Stumpf

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, April 7, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Donivan Jones

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Kelsey Martin

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, April 11, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Lent)

Kelsey Martin

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Gather Hymnal Number 1030

Isaiah 43:16-21

Remember not the events of the past;
I am doing something new!

Philippians 3:8-14

Continue to pursue God's upward calling.

John 8:1-11

Neither do I condemn you;
go and sin no more.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 12/13, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

Seminarian Crawfish Boil Ticket Sales!

10:00AM—**Third Scrutiny**, St. Margaret Church

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, April 7, 2025

8:10AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 2025

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

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

6:00PM—**Adult Confirmation Class**, St. Ignatius Room

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

1:00PM—**Staff Faith Formation**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, Off Campus

6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall

7:00PM—**Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

5:30PM—**CDA Rosary**, St. Margaret Room

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

6:00PM—**Catholic Daughters Meeting**, St. Margaret Room

Friday, April 11, 2025

2:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

4:00PM—**Lenten Meatless Meals**, Parish Hall

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

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Palm Sunday!

10:00AM—**OCIA Rites of Initiation for Candidates Practice**, St. Margaret Church

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

4:00PM—**OCIA Rites of Initiation for Candidates**, St. Margaret Church

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

