

THE

MAY 17/18, 2025

# PEW BUDDY

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

*"As I have loved you,  
so you also should  
love one another."*

~John 13:34

**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](mailto:stmargaret@diobr.org)

**Website:**

[stmargaretstthomas.com](http://stmargaretstthomas.com)





# MARY: THE GIRL CHILD

*By Father Lazarus Panthagani*



## Mary: The Jewish girl

Mary was a young Jewish woman who lived in Nazareth in what is now Israel. The early traditions of the Christian community named Mary's parents Anne and Joachim. Because of Mary's faithfulness as a Jewish woman, we can imagine that her parents were also devout Jews and raised their daughter in accordance with their faith. Their tender care and devotion helped Mary to grow into the confident, yet humble young woman who would say yes to God. Because of the time and area in which Mary lived, we can make some pretty good guesses about what her life was like. Mary was probably a peasant. Life in a rural village of the Middle East such as Nazareth would have been filled with hard work. Most women and many men were illiterate.

During this time, the Romans occupied Mary's homeland. It was a difficult life under Roman rule, filled with violence and poverty. The Jews looked for a Messiah who would liberate them from the oppressive rule of Caesar. Mary notes the injustice of the world around her in her Magnificat when she recalls God's promise to **"[throw] down the rulers from their thrones, but [lift] up the lowly."** (Luke 1:46–55)

## Mary as devoted woman

As a woman deeply rooted in the Jewish faith, Mary trusted that God heard the cries of his people and would **"remember his mercy."** (Luke 1:54) Too often we forget that Mary and Jesus were Jews. Mary was living in the town of Nazareth when she received a very special visitor. God's messenger, the angel Gabriel, came to Mary! Gabriel said, **"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you. God has found favor with you. You will be the mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High."** Mary responded by saying yes! **"I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."**

## Mary the wife of Joseph

Mary would have been about 15 years old when she received God's message that she was to be the mother of the Messiah. She said yes to God and became pregnant with God's Son. This posed quite a problem in Mary's society. Because she was unmarried, she could have been killed as an adulteress. **An angel told Joseph** that his betrothed Mary was pregnant with a child conceived through the Holy Spirit. Joseph listened to God's messenger and did not leave Mary or shame her. Instead, he married Mary and protected her. In the last month of her pregnancy, Mary and Joseph had to make a long and difficult journey to Bethlehem. After Jesus was born, they became refugees, escaping to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod's soldiers. They lived as refugees for a while until it was safe to return to their homeland and settle in Nazareth. In this setting, Mary and Joseph raised Jesus to be a faithful Jew, aware of the injustices in the world, but believing in God's justice, mercy, and love—believing that there is another way. **By doing so, they changed the world.**

## KEY POINTS:

- Mary as a young girl protected by her parents.
- Mary as a sinless woman, to be the mother of His son, protected by God, himself for the salvation of the world.
- Mary as a worthy wife of Joseph protected by him from all the dangers of the traditions.

Mary was protected as a girl and woman in the society. We are bound to protect our girls/women who face many snares and evil practices.

**We can never be wrong when we do the right. Let us join together in doing the right thing and end human trafficking and together we change the world.**

God Bless,

Fr. Laz

# EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

## THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, at **6:45PM** in the St. Margaret Room. Fr. Laz Panthagani, will present *"Mary-The Girl Child: Traditions of India."* Join us to learn more about your faith!

## CLOTHES FOR THE ORPHANS IN INDIA

*A word from Fr. Laz:* At my home in India, our children living in the orphanages are in dire need of clothing. St. Margaret is sponsoring a Clothing Drive now through **Friday, May 23, 2025**, to collect clothing for both boys and girls, ages 5 years old to 14 years old. We kindly request new or gently used, clean clothes for these children. Please drop off your donations to the parish office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

## INDIAN MEAL FUNDRAISER

On **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**, at **6:00PM** Fr. Laz will be hosting an "Indian Meal" fundraiser in the parish hall to raise funds to send young women in India to school. Their ability to get an education will help prevent the human trafficking of these young women. It only costs \$350 to send one young lady to school for a year in India. We will enjoy a traditional Indian-style meal and good company with each other. Please bring a dessert to share for after the meal. The meal is free. Donations are accepted!

## REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Join our Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, May 24, 2025**, at **9:00AM** to help place American flags on the 137+ graves of those buried in our cemetery who have served our country in the military. These flags will be displayed for the week following **Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025**. We will meet again the following **Saturday, May 31, 2025**, to pick up the flags. Please pray for the souls of our departed veterans and their families!

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come spend an hour or so with Jesus in prayerful silence of Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. If you can commit to an hour weekly or would like additional information, contact Gretchen Johnson at 225.921.4071 or [gretjohnson5@yahoo.com](mailto:gretjohnson5@yahoo.com).

## St. Margaret Vacation Bible School

**June 2-6,**

**\$30.00 Per Child**

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



# HOW GOOD IS THE LORD TO ALL

I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.

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## CALL ON THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD FOR HEALING

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

Vincent Alfano, Gwen & Walter Barado, Susan Basso, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Tony Buras, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Rhonda Dedman, Mark DeMarche, Irene Good DeMars, Shelli Domiano, Bob Evans, Marlena Everett, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Judy Hahn, Marsha Hoffman, Theresa Ivanyisky, Delta Kovach, Tristian Harrison, Brian Helmstetter, Mary E. Herbert, Gregg Mader, Patricia Matthews, Carrie Odom, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pffiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Mary Prokop, Reynell Shorts, Family of Carroll Simoneaux, II, Bonnie Smith, Sherry Smith, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito & Annie Tallia, Trysten Tucker, Rita Rayborn Wagner, 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.

## STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

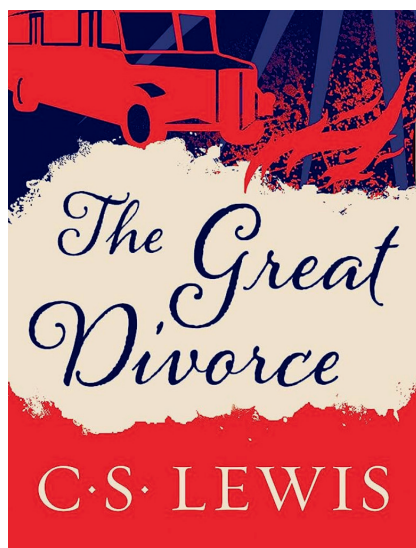
Thanks to your generosity,  
the **Regular Collection**  
for the weekend of  
**May 10/11, 2025,**  
totaled:

**\$14,040.00.**

The **Second Collection** next  
weekend will be for the  
**Diocese of Vijayawada**  
to help stop human trafficking!

Thank you for your kindness and  
generosity to our ministries!

TO  
GIVE...



**HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER  
BOOK STUDY**

Join us as we dive into *The Great Divorce*  
by C.S. Lewis this summer!

Imagine being a damned soul on a bus ride from Hell to visit the outskirts of Heaven. Then, once you arrive you are offered a second chance to enter the bliss of Heaven forever. Why would anyone not accept this once in a lifetime, or after life-time-over? This is just the scenario found in C.S. Lewis' allegorical tale, *The Great Divorce*.

***We will meet for weekly sessions to discuss the chapters and reflect on C.S. Lewis' insightful work.***

**The cost of this study is \$10.00/person, where you will receive the book and study guide. Please RSVP by May 28th!**

***June 4, 11, 18, & 25 - 5:30 - 6:30 PM***

***July 2, 9, 16, 30 - 5:30 - 6:30 PM***

***Please contact Mrs. Baleigh with any questions!***  
***bohenderson@stmargaretsstthomas.com | 985-981-6524***



# HE MAKES ALL THINGS NEW

## FREE!!!



The Diocese of Baton Rouge  
Child Nutrition Program  
will be providing **free** summer meals  
to all children 18 and under.  
{First come/first served basis}

Each child will receive:  
**7 Breakfasts + 7 Lunches**  
**+ 1 Gallon of Milk**  
(Maximum of **5** meal packages per vehicle)



For more information, please call the CNP office at  
225.387.6421 or visit [www.cnpbr.org](http://www.cnpbr.org).



*This Institution Is an Equal Opportunity Provider.*

### MEAL SERVICES 2025 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

#### MONDAYS

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
11140 LA 77 - Maringouin, LA 70757

**Mission of the Sacred Heart**  
29589 S Poplar St  
Livingston, LA 70754

#### St Jules

7165 LA 1 - Belle Rose, LA 70341

#### TUESDAYS

JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
LA-308 - Plattenville, LA 70393

**Our Lady of Peace**  
13281 Hwy 644 - Vacherie, LA 70090

#### St Catherine of Siena

421 St Patrick St - Donaldsonville, LA 70346

#### WEDNESDAYS

JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25

**Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church**  
509 Pine St - Independence, LA 70443

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor**  
32615 Bowie St - White Castle, LA 70788

**St Margaret Queen of Scotland**  
30300 Catholic Hall Rd - Hammond, LA 70403

#### THURSDAYS

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26

**St Gabriel Catholic Church**  
3625 Hwy 75 - St Gabriel, LA 70776

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Easter brings us new hope. Let us bring new hope to our marriage by attending a Marriage Encounter Experience to learn how Jesus gives us the graces for a strong Sacrament. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience will be a virtual one hosted by the Atlanta WWME community. It is scheduled for June 6 through 8, 2025. A \$100 non-refundable registration fee applies. Early registration is highly recommended. Sign up at [wwme.org/apply](http://wwme.org/apply) (look for weekends in Atlanta). For more information contact Doug & Maureen Newlands at 678.242.9963.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
**Celebrating 150 Years**  
Is Excited To Welcome

## Dr. Paul Thigpen



**Friday, May 30th**

**6:30PM @ St. Joseph's Church  
in Ponchatoula, LA**

**FREE to attend**

Reception to follow in the  
St. Benedict Room.

**Mark your calendar!**

Dr. Paul Thigpen is an internationally known speaker, award-winning journalist, and best-selling author of sixty books including ***The Life of Saint Joseph as Seen by the Mystics***, which will be the focus of his presentation. His work has been circulated worldwide and translated into sixteen languages.



# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of  
**George & Eric Navarre** by Kim Navarre.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Saturday, May 17, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Sidney Alexander, Tony & Patty Anzalone, Marcia Artigues, Barbara Bergeron, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Martha Brown, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Luisa Jacques, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Connie & Ray Louviere, Judy Monistere, Patty Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Steve & Mary Resetar and Anne Sherman

### Sunday, May 18, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert, John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Steve Prokop, Sr., Gill Scioneaux and Gerard Lou Staub

### Sunday, May 18, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

### Sunday, May 18, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

### Monday, May 19, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Lynette Pfiffner

### Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

George & Eric Navarre and Christopher D. Mays

### Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Al & Jane Faucheux

### Thursday, May 22, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Chuck Raborn, Sr. and Francis Kronlage

### Friday, May 23, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Donivan Jones



# 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 Lazarus 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 Easter*

***Gather Hymnal Number 1075***

### Acts 14: 21-27

Building the early church amid hardships.

### Revelation 21:1-5a

The great vision of a renewed earth.

### John 13:31-33a, 34-35

"I give you a new commandment:

Love one another."

### Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*May 24/25, 2025*

### Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

**Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23**

**John 14:23-29**

# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, May 18, 2025

**Ladies Auxiliary Pulled Pork Fundraiser Ticket Sales!**  
**St. Vincent de Paul Society Second Collection!**

12:00PM—**KC Veterans Memorial Luncheon**, Parish Hall

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

## Monday, May 19, 2025

1:00PM—**St. Faustina's Stitches**, St. Jean Vianney Room

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

## Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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

6:00PM—**Indian Meal Fundraiser**, Parish Hall

## Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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

5:00PM—**VBS Decorating Night**, Hall of Saints

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

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

## Thursday, May 22, 2025

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

## Friday, May 23, 2025

**Last Day to Drop Off Donations for Clothes Drive!**

11:00AM—**KC Ladies Pulled Pork Fundraiser**, Parish Hall

## Saturday, May 24, 2025

**Diocese of Vijayawada Second Collection!**

9:00AM—**KC Memorial Day Flag Placement**, St. Margaret Cemetery

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



## CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES WITH YOUNG FAMILIES!

Want to grow in faith and friendship with your spouse while building community with other couples in a similar season of life? "Together in Holiness" is a marriage enrichment program from the St. John Paul II Foundation that helps couples strengthen their relationship with God and with each other. Designed especially for young married couples with children, this is a beautiful way to invest in your vocation while connecting with others walking a similar path. Please join us for an information meeting with light refreshments on **June 17, 2025**, at **6:00PM** in the St. Margaret Room to learn how this small group series can bless your marriage and build meaningful community within our parish. One or both spouses are welcome to attend!