


THE

JULY 19/20, 2025

PEW BUDDY

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



"Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her"

~Luke 10:42

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

Pursue a lasting love ...
#NFP Week 2025



Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ this 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time!

This week, the Universal Church celebrates Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week, from July 20-26, 2025. This commemorates Pope St. Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which was promulgated on July 25, 1968. This encyclical upheld the Church's long-standing teaching on marital love and the prohibition of contraception to avoid pregnancy. Regrettably, this Church teaching has been woefully misunderstood by the world and, frankly, by most Catholics.

If you were able to attend my "Theology in a Bottle" talk last spring, I spoke about the "Yes behind the No." In other words, most people see the Church's teaching prohibiting artificial means of avoiding pregnancy as simply a "no"—prohibiting something that seems, at first glance, unreasonable and archaic. But when something the Church teaches seems this way, there is usually a wisdom behind the teaching that we do not see "on the surface." Instead, we must dive deeply into understanding the "why behind the what."

The Church says "no" to contraception only because she is saying "yes" to true marital love and the meaning behind God's creation of the marital act, which is good, beautiful, sacred, and holy. This is because it is meant to communicate to each spouse the kind of love that God shares within the very indwelling of the Holy Trinity – a love that is free, faithful, total, and fruitful (lifegiving/open to life). Thus, the marital act itself truly becomes a renewal of their wedding vows, which bonds spouses together and possibly even allows them to participate with God in creating new life. Natural Family Planning, which nowadays is very sophisticated and highly effective in both avoiding pregnancy (while still being open to life) or achieving a pregnancy, is a way for couples to communicate to each other what God has intended – a love that is free, faithful, total, and fruitful – while also keeping the two 'ends' of the act (union and procreation) intrinsically bound.

Contraception, on the other hand, is a subtle deviation from God's plan for marital love, which Pope St. Paul VI predicted in *Humanae Vitae* would ultimately be devastating for marriage and family. He predicted almost 60 years ago that the widespread use of contraception would result in four serious consequences for society: greater marital infidelity, a general lowering of moral standards in society, an increase in men using women as objects for their pleasure, and finally, public authorities weaponizing it to control and manipulate the vulnerable. In essence, Pope St. Paul VI was a prophet. It would seem 60 years later that many of his predictions have indeed come true.

In the end, this teaching can be difficult. As a pastor, I completely understand that. However, if this is something you are struggling with, I invite you to delve more deeply into understanding the "why behind the what." I am very open to answering questions and have had many conversations with both men and women regarding NFP and the Church's teaching. Julie Barnett, a former nurse at the Women's New Life Clinic in Baton Rouge, offers introductory sessions for couples. She can be reached at Juliebarnett.fcp@gmail.com

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

[USCCB article on NFP](#)



Christopher West
on the Church's teaching



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

MISSION KREWE IN AUXIER, KY

Our youth in Mission Krewe and their chaperones will be leaving **Saturday, July 19, 2025**, for Auxier, KY to work with the Helping Hands Ministry in the Appalachian Mountains. Please keep these mission workers in your prayers while they are experiencing what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

ONE BOOK, ONE CHURCH

All men and women in the parish are invited to participate in our upcoming book study! Our first session will be on **Tuesday, July 22, 2025** at **9:00AM** in the Hall of Saints. The group will read Matthew Kelly's "Life is Messy". Please visit the parish office to register or print the flyer on our website. There is no cost to participate. Joining One Book, One Church is a wonderful way you can learn more about your faith with other members of our community!

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Since Fr. Paul will be accompanying the Youth Group on Mission Krewe, there is a temporary change to the Daily Mass schedule. We will **NOT** have Daily Mass on **Tuesday** or **Wednesday, July 22 and 23, 2025**. Daily Mass will resume on **Thursday, July 24, 2025**.

SIT A WHILE WITH JESUS IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

We **WILL** have Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**. We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. Come pray for peace in our families, our country and our world! If you can commit to an hour weekly or need additional information, contact Gretchen Johnson at 225-921-4071 or at gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE RECENTLY?

Have you recently experienced the death of a loved one? Is it hard for you to feel optimistic about the future at the moment? You are not alone! St. Margaret will host a grief recovery ministry called GriefShare in the Ignatius Room of the Hall of Saints on **Tuesday evenings** at **6:00PM** beginning on **August 12, 2025**, or on **Friday mornings** at **9:30AM** beginning **August 22, 2025**. This support group will help you face the challenges of grief while moving toward rebuilding your life. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact Tammy, the ministry leader, in the parish office or by email at tresetar@stmargaretstthomas.com. *Catholics, non-Catholics, as well as non-parishioners are invited to attend!*

WALK WITHOUT FAULT

REGISTER FOR PSR 2025-2026

While we may only be half-way through the summer, it's time to get ready for Parish School of Religion (PSR) for the 2025-2026 school year! Please register using the QR codes here to access the PSR registration form and parent handbook (including the school calendar). Forms may also be found at each entrance of the church, in the parish office, or on our website. Completed forms are due at the parish office by **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact Baleigh Henderson at the parish office or by email at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com.

25-26 PSR Registration



25-26 PSR Handbook



STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of
July 12/13, 2025, totaled:

\$11,415.00.

The **Mission Krewe Second Collection**
totaled:

\$3,018.00.

The **Second Collection**
next weekend will be for
St. Margaret Services Ministries!

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE... 

PRAY FOR HEALING WITHOUT CEASING

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

Vincent Alfano, Oliver & Marinette Amato, Gwen & Walter Barado, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Tony Buras, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Rhonda Dedman, Mark DeMarche, Irene Good DeMars, Shelli Domiano, Adeline Evans, Marlena Everett, Elise "Breezy" Fischer, Dan Flaherty, Hannah Guillotte, Judy Hahn, Jacob Hanewinkel, Joseph Hanewinkel, Theresa Ivanyisky, Tristian Harrison, Ann Hassenboughler, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Darrell Hoover, Frank Kovach, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Gregg Mader, Patricia Matthews, Carrie Odom, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Mary Prokop, Lester Sanchez, Reynell Shorts, Bonnie Smith, Sherry Smith, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito & Annie Tallia, Trysten Tucker, Carla Van Vrancken, Rita Rayborn Wagner, Jackie Wedge, Debbie Wheat, Delores & Keith Wheat, Gunner Wrinkles, 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.

DO WHAT IS JUST

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

KOLBE PRISON MINISTRIES

10th Annual National Conference

July 26th, 2025



Hosted by Most Blessed
Sacrament Catholic Church
8033 Baringer Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Plus KPM Committee
Overview and More!

Event will last from
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

JOIN US!

Learn more about Prison Ministry
during a day of prayer
and reflection.

Followed by a Mass at 4:30 PM
Celebrated by Bishop Michael Duca
Diocese of Baton Rouge



Visit for More Information
kolbeprisonministries.org



The Diocesan Office of Life, Peace and Justice and the
Theology Department of Franciscan Missionaries of Our
Lady University (FranU) will host:

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PASTORAL MINISTRY AND TEACHING ABOUT SAME SEX ATTRACTION

"With all humility and gentleness, with
patience, bearing with one another
through love, striving to preserve the
unity of the spirit through the bond of
peace: one body and one Spirit, as you
were also called to the one hope of your
call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all, who is over
all and through all and in all."
(Ephesians 4:2-6)



Michaelangelo - *The Creation of Adam*

OPEN
TO THE
PUBLIC!



DR. JENNIFER MOREL, STD
*Assistant Professor of Theology,
FranU, Baton Rouge*

Registration is **REQUIRED**.

THURSDAY

8-7-25

FROM 6-8 P.M.

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC
CHURCH - KLEINPETER
ACTIVITY CENTER

7808 St. George Dr.
Baton Rouge



Find more information & register
<https://diobr.org/lc-event>
Registration is **REQUIRED**.

Contact us
OLPJ@diobr.org



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, July 19, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Cheryl Colomes,
Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Bulmaro Garcia, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Rosemary Gouzy,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, 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., Sansone Family, Anne Sherman,
Josephine Stehlin, Carol Pfiffner Taylor, Keith Williams and St. Margaret Staff

Sunday, July 20, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Tony Deville, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert,
Barry Hines, Adam Hymel, Jr., Vicky Johnson, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange,
Clarence & Faye Landeche, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin,
Steve Prokop, Sr., Mary Ann Schultz, Gill Scioneaux, Gerard Lou Staub,
Charles & Marie Stumpf, Stumpf Family and Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, July 20, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, July 20, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, NO Mass (Feast of St. Mary Magdalene)

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Thursday, July 24, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner
Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, July 25, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Feast of St. James)

Freya Rotar
Jason Summers

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

Tuesday 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*)

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, High School Youth,
& Communications Coordinator*)

Melissa F. Berghausen (*Junior Youth &
Sacramental Coordinator*)

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gather Hymnal Number 1139

Genesis 18:1-10a

Abraham and Sarah

welcome three strangers.

Colossians 1:24-28

Paul shares in Christ's own suffering.

Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha welcome

Jesus in different ways.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26/27, 2025

Genesis 18:20-32

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Mission Krewe in Auxier, KY!

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mission Krewe in Auxier, KY!

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

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

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mission Krewe in Auxier, KY!

NO DAILY MASS TODAY!

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

9:00AM—**One Book, One Church/"Life is Messy"**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mission Krewe in Auxier, KY!

NO DAILY MASS TODAY!

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

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Happy Birthday, Deacon Tim Messenger!

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

Friday, July 25, 2025

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, July 26, 2025

St. Margaret Services Ministries Second Collection!

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

WE NEED USHERS!

If you are looking for a simple way to serve in a ministry that will touch many people, consider becoming a Hospitality Minister/Usher. Hospitality Ministers/Ushers get to share Jesus with everyone entering and leaving our beautiful churches. We especially need ministers for the **Sunday, 5:30PM Mass**. If you are interested in helping with this rewarding ministry, please call Kim at 985-634-5366.

