

THE

AUGUST 23/24, 2025

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

*"Strive to enter
through the
narrow gate..."*

~Luke 13:24

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 Fr. Paul Gros

The Loving Discipline of the Lord

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! This Sunday's second reading from the letter to the Hebrews is a continuation of last weekend's 2nd reading in which the author (traditionally St. Paul) encourages us to "run the race" (in Greek – *agōnizomai* – contending in the agonizing contest) ridding ourselves of any burden of sin that clings to us. Considering his encouragement, this weekend he reminds us of a profound and often challenging truth: God's discipline is often an expression of His love for us. While the idea of discipline may not be easy to embrace (as it has a bad connotation in our culture), this passage invites us to see it through the eyes of faith as a sign of God's care and a path to holiness.

The author begins by quoting **Proverbs 3:11-12**: *"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when He reproves you; for whom the Lord loves, He disciplines; He scourges every son He acknowledges"* (Hebrews 12:5-6).

This imagery of a loving father correcting his children may feel uncomfortable at first and even bring some bad memories from our past. However, discipline though it can be painful, whether it comes in the form of trials, challenges, or even the consequences of our own actions, can be a sign of God's fatherly love. Just as a parent corrects a child to help them grow in virtue, so too does God guide us toward holiness through the trials we face. How true this has been for my life! When I "look in the rearview mirror" of my life, many of my trials have been formative for me!

The passage continues: *"Endure your trials as discipline; God treats you as sons. For what 'son' is there whom his father does not discipline?"* (Hebrews 12:7).

Again, to endure trials as discipline requires a shift in perspective. Instead of seeing suffering as meaningless or as a sign of God's absence, *we are invited to see it as an opportunity for growth*. God permits difficulties in our lives not to harm us but to strengthen our faith, purify our hearts, and draw us closer to Him. This is not a denial of suffering's reality, but a call to trust that God can bring good even out of our pain. As the old saying goes "no pain, no gain." The author acknowledges that discipline is not pleasant in the moment: *"At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it"* (Hebrews 12:11).

Yet he offers us hope. While the trials we face may be painful, they are not without purpose. When we persevere in faith, God uses them to produce the "peaceful fruit of righteousness" in our lives. Like an athlete who endures rigorous training to grow stronger, we too are being spiritually strengthened through the challenges we face.

In the end, we are reminded that God's discipline is not meant to break us but to strengthen and to heal us. It is a call to rise, to cooperate with His grace, and to walk the path of holiness with renewed determination. By trusting in His love and following His guidance, we allow Him to transform us into the people He created us to be.

As we reflect on this reading, let us ask for the grace to see God's hand at work in our lives, even in the midst of trials. May we trust in His love and allow His discipline to shape us into faithful disciples who bear the fruit of righteousness. *"So, strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees..."* and *"run the race"* of virtue for our God is a loving Father who disciplines His children to be the saints they are called to be!

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

The first "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, August 24, 2025**, at **6:45PM** in St. Margaret Church. Fr. Paul Gros, will present "*Sunday Sips: Savoring the Sabbath Day*." Join us to learn more about your faith and keeping the Sabbath Day holy!

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO START SOON

If you are an adult who has been baptized and received First Eucharist but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation, five preparatory sessions will be held on **Tuesdays** beginning **September 2, 2025**, from **6:00PM** until **8:00PM** in order to assist you to prepare to receive the sacrament. The sacrament will be celebrated at the end of the five weeks. If you have any further questions, please call Deacon Byrd at the parish office or email him at bcorbett@stmargaretstthomas.com.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

In observance of the Labor Day, we have not have PSR classes on **Sunday, August 31, 2025**. Classes will resume on **Sunday, September 7, 2025**.

We will not have Mondays with Mary on **Monday, September 1, 2025**, due to the Labor Day Holiday.



 **ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND
DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE**

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

- ✓ Estate planning questions?
- ✓ Want to add St. Margaret/St. Thomas to your will?
- ✓ Is the planning process intimidating?

We have an easy solution!
Join Baton Rouge Estate Planning Attorney, Laura Poche to discuss your options in the planning process and the possibility of including St. Margaret/St. Thomas in your will.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
12:00 PM

WHERE: St. Margaret Room, Hall of Saints

Register Here:  A light lunch will be provided!

WORKS OF CHARITY

Joseph Homes provides transitional housing and a second chance for formerly incarcerated men working to rebuild their lives. For many of our residents, this is their first safe, stable place to call home in years – and they deserve a space that reflects dignity, safety, and care. We're launching a fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 to make urgently needed renovations, including: new mattresses to replace worn-out bedding, updated door locks to ensure safety and privacy, improved lighting to create a brighter, more welcoming environment, repairs and fresh paint to restore walls and uplift spirits. Visit CatholicCharitiesBR.org or scan the QR code to donate today.



O LORD OF MERCIFUL LOVE

BIBLE STUDY, PSALMS: THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Learn how to respond to god in “Psalms: The School of Prayer”, an 11-part bible study featuring Jeff Cavins, Sarah Christmyer, and Tim Gray on video. The study will be on **Thursday** evenings from **6:00PM** until **8:00PM** in the Hall of Saints beginning **September 11, 2025**. Learn how to meditate fruitfully on the captivating words of the psalms using *lectio divina*, and study the many ways the psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus. The cost for the workbook is \$25 per person. Please complete the registration form here, on our website or at the parish office. For more information, contact Jennifer Batson at 817.269.7482 or jen.batson64@gmail.com.

Psalms

The School of Prayer



STUDY REGISTRATION FORM

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland

Psalms: The School of Prayer

Fall 2025

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	REGISTRATION OPTIONS
Name: _____	Participant Fee: \$25 _____
Address: _____ _____	Donation to Scholarship Fund: _____
City: _____	Total: _____
State, Zip: _____	Cash Y/N? _____
Email: _____	Check Y/N? _____
	Checks can be made payable to: St. Margaret Queen of Scotland mailed to: P. O. Box 100 Albany, LA 70711

To request financial assistance, please email Jennifer Batson at Jen.batson64@gmail.com or call 817-269-7482 .

Special Needs: _____

Volunteer Opportunities: Small Group Facilitator Y/N? _____ Hospitality Y/N? _____

Other: _____

HELP US ENDURE FOREVER

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HEALING

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

Vincent Alfano, Oliver & Marinette Amato, Ruth Aucoin, Gwen & Walter Barado, Clark Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Tony Buras, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, 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 Hassenbrouhler, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Darrell Hoover, Tyler Hoover, Frank Kovach, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Gregg Mader, Patricia Matthews, Carrie Odom, Lawrence Pelotto, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, 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, 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.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the
Regular Collection for the weekend of
August 16/17, 2025, totaled:

\$12,359.00.

The collection for the **Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary** totaled:

\$2,363.00.

There will be no **Second** or **Special
Collection** next weekend!

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



DOUBLE FEATURE WITH JASON EVERT



PURIFIED AND **GENDER**
AND THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY

Let's come together to discover the beauty of God's plan for human love. A life-changing event for teens & adults (ages 13+).

EVENT INCLUDES:
Eucharistic Adoration
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Free resources for every attendee!
Tickets \$25

September 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM

St. Michael the Archangel High School
St. Sebastian Gym
17521 Monitor Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Tickets: chastity.com/purified
Info: efroeba@smhsbr.org
Doors open at 5:30 PM

CHASTITY PROJECT

Scan for tickets & info



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Albert R. Horrell by Lucie & Joe Hanewinkel.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Victor & Bessie Baglio Family, Philip Brabham, Myra Catalanotto, Karen Chemay,
Merrill Cooper, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard,
Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Elise Girdwood, Barbara Haluska,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry,
Connie & Ray Louviere, Judy Monistere, George & Eric Navarre, Patty Niehaus,
Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso,
Victor & Mary Peptone, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Julius Prokop, Chuck Raborn, Sr., Juliana Rotar, Anne Sherman,
Carol Pfiffner Taylor, Joe Vaurigaud and Amie Wigginton

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert, Adam Hymel, Jr.,
John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Gill Scioneaux
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Joey Vassil

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Monica)

Freya Rotar

Thursday, August 28, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Augustine)

Donivan Jones

Friday, August 29, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (The Passion of St. John the Baptist)

Yancy Watkins

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Chuck Raborn, Sr.** donated by the Raborn Family. If you would like to have flowers given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, call the parish office to schedule in advance.

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

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gather Hymnal Number 1154

Isaiah 66:18-21

God's mercy will extend to all people.

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Encouragement to those
enduring hardship and trials.

Luke 13:22-30

Not all will take advantage
of God's mercy.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30/31, 2025

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 24, 2025

11:15AM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6)**, Hall of Saints
6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades 7-11)**, Hall of Saints
6:45PM—**Theology in a Bottle**, St. Margaret Church

Monday, August 25, 2025

8:15AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse Meeting**, Hall of Saints
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room
9:00AM—**One Book, One Church/"Life is Messy"**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
5:00PM—**Respect Life Committee Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
6:00PM—**GriefShare**, St. Ignatius Room

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church
5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. Pope John Paul II Room
6:30PM—**OCIA**, St. Jean Vianney Room
6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, St. Pope John Paul II Room

Thursday, August 28, 2025

4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church
6:00PM—**Master Planning Committee Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Friday, August 29, 2025

9:30AM—**GriefShare**, St. Ignatius Room

Saturday, August 30, 2025

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.



FEED THE YOUTH!

ST. MARGARET JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS MEET EACH WEDNESDAY AND THE KIDS COME HUNGRY! WE LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY LEAVE FED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A MEAL, OR A FEW, HERE!

