

THE

NOVEMBER 22/23, 2025

PEW BUDDY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

~Matthew 24:42

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

Dear Parish Family,

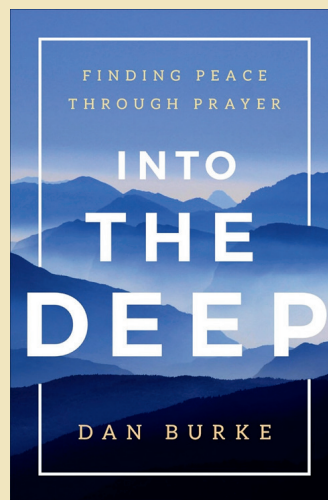
Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ this **First** Sunday of the Advent Season!

“Lord teach us how to pray!” These were the words of the Apostles to Jesus in Luke 11:1 after they had seen Him praying in a certain place. I believe these words should be the prayer of us all: “Teach us how to pray!” This Advent, I plan to help you do just that with the Advent book that **St. Margaret has gifted** to each family.

The title of the book is **“Into the Deep” by Dan Burke**. Dan Burke is a national speaker and founder of the **Avila Institute**, which is geared to teaching people (particularly the laity) how to go deeper in their spiritual life and to live a life of discipleship with a day-to-day relationship with Jesus.

Because the book study this past Lent was such a success, I decided to host a small Advent book study as well, rather than having an Advent mission this year. It is a short, 90-page book that teaches people how to go deeper in their prayer life. The chapter titles will give you a small glimpse of the book:

- “Your desire for God, God’s desire for you”
- “Discovery Prayer”
- “Essential Elements for Progress in Prayer”
- “Making a Solemn Commitment to God”
- “Step-by-Step into the Presence of God”
- “Winning the Battle of Prayer”
- “Experiencing God in Prayer”
- “A Final Word of Encouragement: Be Scrappy”



The book study will take place on **Tuesdays, December 9th, 16th, and 23rd**, from **6:00PM to 7:00PM** in **St. Margaret Church**. As I did for the Lenten book study, I will discuss each chapter while providing my own commentary.

The opening paragraph to the Forward states: **“Prayer is difficult, joyful, challenging, and life changing. The journey into prayer, into the heart of God, is the reason we were made; it is the reason God brought us into existence.”**

The Advent Season is all about silent waiting for the coming of the Messiah. My hope is that this Advent season each of us can “go a little deeper” in silent prayer with the God who became a little child. Please join us for this book study so that the Holy Spirit **can** “teach you how to pray.”

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

GIVING TUESDAY-HELP FOR ST. THOMAS CHAPEL

Don't forget—**Tuesday, December 2, 2025**, is "Giving Tuesday". Please help support our efforts to pay off our loan on the renovation of our beloved St. Thomas Chapel in Springfield. Visit iGiveCatholic.org, search for our Parish or use the QR code and donate \$20 or more. You can donate now using the QR code here which will bring you directly to the iGiveCatholic website! ***Be sure to watch the YouTube video!*** Thank you for your generosity!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Monday, December 8, 2025, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass for the Holy Day will be celebrated at **7:00AM** and **6:00PM** on **Monday** at St. Margaret Church. Come honor the Blessed Mother with us!

MARCH FOR LIFE PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Join the St. Margaret March for Life Pilgrims on **Sunday, December 21, 2025**, immediately following the **10:00 AM Mass**. Your kids will enjoy a "build your own" pancake bar, with breakfast sausage and an assortment of juices and milk! They will be able to take a photo with Santa and make a Christmas craft. Adults can enjoy the same breakfast with coffee and a morning of fun with their family. Tickets are \$15. All proceeds will directly benefit the students attending the 2026 March for Life in Washington D.C. Tickets will be available after each Mass on **December 6/7** and **December 13/14**. They will also be available for purchase in the parish office beginning **December 9, 2025**. Please email Baleigh Henderson at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com with any questions!

ADVENT WOMENS NIGHT OF REFLECTION

Join the women of St. Margaret on **Monday, December 15, 2025**, at **6:45PM** for a night of reflection this Advent season. Our speaker, Lynette Arlati will share on the topic "*Saying Yes and Supporting One Another: Lessons from Mary and Elizabeth*." The event will take place in the St. Margaret Parish Hall. There is no cost to attend, but you must reserve your seats by calling Gloria at 419.348.9674. You are welcome to reserve a table for a group of friends. Hope to see you there!

WELCOME NEW PARISIONERS

Please give a warm welcome to these newly registered St. Margaret parishioners and their families: **Jai-Michael, Kristen & Camille Boudreaux, Emma & Jed Landry, Roy, Shari & Ryan Amerson, and Catalina Rojo & Jozey Pfister**. Thank you for becoming members of the St. Margaret community. Remember to "officially" register if you have not done so; registration forms are available on our website or in the parish office. *Family members are also asked to register when they turn 18 years of age*. Come grow with us on our journey toward the truth which is God's love!

WALK IN THE LORD'S PATHS

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN OR OUR DEACON CANDIDATE

The Vocations Committee of St. Margaret has done a great job in establishing a culture of vocations in our parish. Continue to help us promote more vocations by participating in our "Adopt-A-Seminarian" campaign. Take an ornament off of one of the trees in either church the weekend of **December 13/14, 2025**, and write your seminarian or our deacon candidate a note; perhaps give him a gift and do it all while praying for him and that more people listen to His call to serve the Church! Remember you can "adopt" this seminarian or our deacon candidate for the entire year!

BLOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Join us on **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, from **8:00AM** until **12:30PM** in the parish hall for a blood drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights will be serving donors a sausage, biscuit and grits breakfast. Donors will receive a Blood Bank t-shirt. All donors will also receive a Don's Seafood discount card. If you would like to give blood at the Blood Center, please use code **D227** to designate your life-giving donation for St. Margaret.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the
Regular Collection for the weekend
of **November 22/23, 2025**,
totaled:

\$11,129.00.

The **St. Margaret Youth Group**
Second Collection totaled:

\$2,850.00.

The **Second Collection** next
weekend is for the **Building &
Maintenance Fund!**

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE... 

ST MARGARET CATHOLIC CHURCH CHRISTMAS BLOOD DRIVE



Only **3% of the population** actually donates blood, leaving a stark difference between donations and usage

24% of the Blood Supply is used by **Cancer Patients** and necessary for them to continue their lifesaving treatments

YOUR ONE DONATION
CAN SAVE AS MANY AS 3 LIVES and will help to keep our hospitals well stocked and ready for the next person in need

**PLEASE JOIN US TO GIVE
THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS GIFT**

**Sunday, December 7th
8:00am – 12:30pm**

St. Margaret Catholic Church Hall

DONORS WILL RECEIVE A T-SHIRT & LIGHT SNACK



SCAN ME

SCHEDULE
APPOINTMENTS

**SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT**

APPOINTMENTS HONORED FIRST
WALK-IN'S WELCOME



SCAN ME

MEDICAL
QUESTIONNAIRE

Speed up your donation by filling out your medical questionnaire using FastLane before you arrive!



TheBloodCenter.org
(800)86-BLOOD

AWAKE FROM YOUR SLEEP

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING FOR HEALING

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

Gwen & Walter Barado, Clark Bergeron, Nancy Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, Rhonda Dedman, Irene Good DeMars, Adeline Evans, Wendy Gill, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Jacob Hanewinkel, Joseph Hanewinkel, Tristian Harrison, Ann Hassenboughler, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Darrell Hoover, Tyler Hoover, Melanie Johnston, Frank Kovach, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Patricia Matthews, Dwaine McDaniel, Terry Parrino, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Mary Prokop, Lester Sanchez, Brooklyn Sanone, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Vito & Annie Tallia, Trysten Tucker, Carla Van Vrancken, Barney Wall, 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.

LIVE NATIVITY REHEARSAL

Calling all Youth Group actors - we will practice for the Live Nativity on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**, from **10:00AM** until **12:00PM** on the parish grounds at the nativity location. This will be the **LAST** rehearsal for the play! Be sure to be back at the nativity location for **3:30PM** to get ready for the performance!

LIVE NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

Mark your calendars for St. Margaret Youth Group's Live Nativity Performance on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**, at **5:30PM** in the St. Margaret parking lot near the rectory. Everyone is invited to attend-just remember to bring your own lawn chairs. Come enjoy an enchanted evening of fellowship, Christmas carols and live animals! Following the performance, join us in the parish hall for "Cooking with the Clergy" and a hearty gumbo dinner! Please bring a dessert!

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the family and friends of the newest Catholic welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of November: **Jack Heckman**. Contact Peggy Desselle in the parish office if you are interested in having your child baptized!

CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations all new couples married at St. Margaret during the month of November including **Cory Zeygler & Kymren Pecoraro, Brennan Flores & Angela Chaisson, and Cade Sampey & Emma Helton**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact one of the clergy to schedule your wedding or to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Sidney Ourso by Ourso Family.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, November 29, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Eddie Barker, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Jessica Galatas Bleakley, Carol Bordelon, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Gwendolyn Delauneville, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Romaine Guilbeau, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Frank & Margaret Koles, Frank Koles, III, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Charlie & Mary Leon, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patty Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Lawrence Pelotto, Andy Pfiffner, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Andrew "Andy" Pizzalato, Julius Prokop, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Barbara Wilson and Deceased Members of the Bleakley & Robichaux Families

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, Delores M. Dupre, Fulton Charles Hebert, John LaGrange, Clarence & Faye Landeche, Landeche Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, E.D. Purvis, Gill Scioneaux, Gerard Lou Staub, Charles & Marie Stumpf, Stumpf Family

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

George & Eric Navarre

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Shelly Cyrus

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Francis Xavier)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Donivan Jones

Friday, December 5, 2025, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Jane Faucheux

MONTHLY STAFF MEETING

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting. Please make sure to take care of any business around these closures. Thank you for your consideration!

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*)

Father Kumar Kolakani (*Assistant Pastor*)

DEACONS

Deacon William "Byrd" Corbett

Deacon Tim Messenger

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary E. Herbert

(*Pastor's Administrative Assistant*)

Tammy Resetar (*Receptionist*

& Cemetery Liaison)

Peggy Desselle (*Contributions Manager*
& Sacraments Coordinator)

PASTORAL STAFF

Baleigh Olah Henderson

(*Religious Education, Youth Minister,*
& Communications Coordinator)

Debbie Corbett (*Safe Environment*)

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Sunday of Advent

Gather Hymnal Number 991

Isaiah 2:1-5

God's word brings amazing transformation.

Romans 13:11-14

Stay awake for Christ's coming.

Matthew 24:37-44

Be vigilant for the coming of the Lord.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6/7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent!

- 11:15AM—Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6), Hall of Saints
- 11:15AM—Circle of Grace (Grade 3), Hall of Saints
- 2:00PM—Rededication of St. Thomas Chapel, St. Thomas Chapel
- 6:45PM—PSR/Circle of Grace (Grades 7-8), Hall of Saints
- 6:45PM—Parish School of Religion (Grade 9-11), Parish Hall
- 6:45PM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 11), St. Margaret Church

Monday, December 1, 2025

- 10:00AM—St. Thomas Altar Society, St. Thomas Chapel
- 5:00PM—Mondays with Mary, St. Margaret Church
- 6:00PM—Young Adult Ladies Bible Study, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

iGiveCatholic Giving Day!

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Parish Office Closed from 8:00AM until 1:00PM!

- 7:30AM—Eucharistic Adoration, St. Margaret Church
- 9:00AM—Staff Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
- 3:00PM—Cemetery Committee Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
- 5:00PM—Junior Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room
- 6:00PM—Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Banquet, Off Campus
- 6:30PM—OCIA, St. Jean Vianney Room
- 6:30PM—High School Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room

Thursday, December 4, 2025

- 4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church
- 5:30PM—Pastoral Council Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
- 7:00PM—Finance Council Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Friday, December 5, 2025

- 9:30AM—Divine Readers, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
- 6:00PM—Catholic Schoolhouse Showcase, Parish Hall

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

March for Life Pancake Breakfast Ticket Sales!

- 8:00AM—Confirmation Retreat (Grades 7 & 8), Parish Hall
- 3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church



GATHER HYMNAL: *SANCTUS*, number 308B; *AGNUS DEI*, number 313B