

THE

DECEMBER 27/28, 2025

PEW BUDDY

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (A)

"Rise, take the child and his mother and go..."

~ Matthew 2:20

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 weekend the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family, and this coming Thursday is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I felt moved by the Lord to share in this bulletin article something I preached on several years ago regarding the First Reading for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

The First Reading is always the same every year:

Numbers 6:22–27

The LORD said to Moses:

“Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

What exactly is a blessing? According to Truthly: Catholic AI, “a blessing is an act of divine favor or approval, often imparted through words, which brings about spiritual, physical, or material well-being. It serves as a tangible sign of God’s benevolence, protection, and presence.” In my own words, it is a gesture which says, “IT IS GOOD THAT YOU EXIST!”

The above blessing from Numbers 6 is called the “Aaronic Blessing” and was traditionally used by the high priest to bless the people, especially on the Day of Atonement. If you notice, this is the blessing I use every time I bless one of you outside of Mass. The Church offers this reading because it is seeking God’s blessing for each of you as we begin the New Year 2026.

However, it can also be powerfully connected to the Feast of the Holy Family. Why? Because parents and grandparents are given authority over their children (especially at a young age) and have the right to bless them just as a priest has authority as a spiritual father to bless his parishioners in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I remember this was something my parents would do every day before I left for school (even as a teenager!). My mother would use blessed oil to make the sign of the cross on my hands and my forehead. To this day I am grateful to have received this blessing from God through them!

In the end, this is something that is so important for parents and grandparents to do for their children, either before bedtime or before school in the morning. Using the simple formula that God gave Moses from Numbers 6, it only takes a minute, and with the use of Holy Water or Holy Oil, it can be a powerful gesture both spiritually and emotionally for our children. While the world tries to “tear them down,” we as a Church need to “build them up” with God’s blessings.

To this day, I know of parents who heard that homily I gave several years ago and still bless their children every night (even when they may forget, their children will tell them, “Daddy, don’t forget my blessing!”).

Have a wonderful week (and a wonderful New Year!) and remember to bless your children and grandchildren!

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day is also a celebration in the Church of Mary, Mother of God. There will be two Masses celebrated for the feast – one on **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**, at **6:00PM** and one on **Thursday, January 1, 2026**, at **10:00AM** both at St. Margaret. Come give thanks to God for blessing us with another year while honoring our Blessed Mother, asking her intercession and protection and the grace of a healthy and happy 2026! Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In observance of the New Year holiday, and to give our staff some well-deserved rest, the parish office will be closed **Wednesday** through **Friday, December 31, 2025**, through **January 2, 2026**. Please tend to any business that you might have before or after these days. We hope that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

In observance of the New Year holiday, there will be no OCIA class on **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. There will be no PSR classes on **December 28, 2025**. Classes will resume on **January 4, 2026**. The Youth Group will not meet on **December 31, 2025**. Mondays with Mary Ministry will not be meeting for our weekly rosary on **Monday, December 29, 2025**. Enjoy the break! Return refreshed! We wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

VOCATIONS AWARENESS MINISTRY

Join our newly established Vocations Awareness Ministry on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**, at **6:00PM** to discuss upcoming events and the direction of the ministry to support and promote vocations. For more information, call Baleigh Henderson at the parish office or email her at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Join Bishop Michael Duca to celebrate couples who are married for 25, 50, 65 years or more in 2026 on **Sunday, March 22, 2026**, at **2:00PM** at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denham Springs. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and a reception in the ICC Parish Hall. Would you like to register as a participant so that our diocese can celebrate your important anniversary? Contact Tammy in the parish office by **Thursday, February 26, 2026**, to register!

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection**
for the weekend of
December 20/21, 2025,
totaled:

\$15,576.50.

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

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



Christmas Flower Memorial Intentions

All Christmas flowers are purchased annually with donations contributed by parishioners. Memorial gifts were made in remembrance of the following intentions. Please keep these individuals, both living and deceased, in your prayers as they will all be remembered in our liturgical celebrations throughout the Christmas season.

Barbara Dendinger Acton	The Castjohn Family	Raymond Ford
Marge & Vern Akers	Paul Cedotal	Glenn Forsberg
John Alexander	Polly Chatelain	Virgil Forsberg
John Aranyosi	Karen Chemay	Ken Frahm
Don Arceneaux	Louis & Jennie Chemay	Anthony & Anna Friedman
Rena Arceneaux	Louis J. & Ruth Chemay	Ed Garro
Adrian Bailey	Billy R. Clark	Homer Gaspard
Kim Bailey	Pauline Clark	Mr. & Mrs. L. Gaspard
Lucien "Bud" Bailey	Beulah Cocran	Mark Gaspard, Jr.
Jim & Eddie Barker	Joe & Theresa Constance	Anthony Gauthier
Lonnie & Mary Barker	Merrill Cooper	Fred & Rose Gauthier
Andy & Olga Bartosh	Decreased Corbett Family	Nelrose Gauthier
Eleanor Bates	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cowart	Wade Gill
John Bates	Gene & Pat Cunningham	Doris & John Gillard
Paul Bates	Archie & Ruth Dantin	Frank Good, Sr.
Valerie Bates	Bill Dantin	Bill Grady
Joseph Bates, Sr.	Frances Dantin	Jim Grady
Marco Becerra, Jr.	Leon A. Dauterive	Barbara Haluska
Bobbie Jo Bertrand	Leon A. Dauterive, Jr.	John Haluska, Jr.
Mark A. Bertrand	Jeanne L. Davis	Joe & Dorothy Hanewinkel, Sr.
Ronald Bourgeois	The Deliberto Family	Daniel Haro, Jr.
The Brasington Family	Charles DeMars	Daniel & Rene Haro, Sr.
Margie Breaud	Davis Desselles	Ricky Harrison
Leroy Breeland	Harvey & Greta Desselles	Dennis & Evelyn Hebert
Mrs. Ruth B. Broussard	Paula Distefano	Beverly Herrmann
Bobby Brown	The Duhe Family	Elaine Herrmann
The Bruskey Family	The Dupont Family	Josephine Hoover
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burney, Sr.	Sister June Engelbrecht	Christine Horrell
Susan Cain	Larry J. Evans	Ray & Ireene Horrell
A.P. & Katie Cardinale	Lawrence T. Evans	Marie A. Hotard
Clair Cardinale	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Faldetta	Francis A. Hotard, Sr.
Tony & Josie Carreca	Elmo & Alpha Faucheux	Bobby Hudson

Christmas Flower Memorial Intentions

Clementine & Ervin
Hutchinson
Andrew & Eleanor Ivanyisky
Paul A. Ivanyisky
Bill & Emily Jones
Donivan Jones
Janice, Jesse, Keith Jones
Lola Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Jones, Sr.
Bea Kessler
Nelius Kimball
Ruby Kimball
The Koleszar Family
Lena Mae Landry
Robert & Theresa Landry
Roswell & Nyla Landry
John Langan
Eunice LeBeau
Joseph A. LeBeau
Buddy LeBlanc
Elaine LeBlanc
The LeBlanc Family
Anthony, Lawrence, Guy &
Frank Leon
Philip & Irene Leon
Frank Lezu
George Lezu
Joe Lobue
Mr. Paul J. Loustaunau, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J.
Loustaunau, Sr.
June & Earl Magner
Frank Manina
Josephine Manina
Kevin Manina
Nick Manina
Carol Manzella
Charles Martin
Chucky Martin
Kelsey Martin

Harriet Martinez
Chris Mayeaux
Mickey Mayeaux
Mr. & Mrs. E. Mayeaux
The McDaniel Family
William McKelvey
Donald McKinney
Joan Bailey McKinney
Ronnie McKinney
Gene McNabb
Peter & Florence Meszaros
Mr. & Mrs. Pravate Miller
Margaret M. Mocsary
D.S. Moreland
Dustin Novak
Henry Novak
The Nuss Family
The Oalmann Family
Jack & Claire O'Flynn
Audrey Onellion
Vince & Bertha Ourso
Terry Papaleo
Josef & Mary Pauli
Timmy Peacock
Todd M. Penn, Jr.
Victor & Mary Peptone
Lynette Pfiffner
The Pfiffner Family
Rick Pierce
Kathy H. Polinsky
Mary & Joe Prokop
The Quartararo Family
Chuck Raborn, Sr.
Doris Radosti
The Radosti Family
Joseph Michael Radosti, Jr.
Woodie Ramsey
Albert & Margaret Resetar
Charles Risher
Donna Rossiter

Bertha & James Rousset
Janet & Roy Rousset
Deceased Scalisi Family
Louis Schultz
Paul Seruntine
Karen Simmons
Elizabeth & Marion St. Cyr
The Sterling Family
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Stewart
Noland Stewart
Mrs. Kathleen L. Strawser
Mary Stropola
Pearl & Harwood Styron
Audrey K. Sudkamp
John D. Sudkamp, Sr.
Arleen G. Sylvester
Isabel M. Sylvester
The Sziber Family
Andrew & Irene Sziszak
Paul Sziszak
Frank Tarifa, Sr.
Lester Torres
The Torres Family
Ray Traylor
Emory Tregre
The Tregre Family
Albert & Ethel Tuger
Joe & Mary Vassil
Joseph J. Vassil
Leon Vullo
Bernadine & Rudy Wagner
Yancy Watkins
Helena Whitaker
Ira & Janice Young

In Honor of:
Elizabeth Bigner
Martha Cooper & Dwayne
Echo Community

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 27, 2025, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Barry & Marguerite Bleakley, Philip Brabham, Martha Brown, Karen Chemay, Merrill Cooper, Larry J. Evans, Al Fauchaux, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Barbara Haluska, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Albert & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Michael Jude LeJeune, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patty Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Sal Pellittieri, Sr., Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Jim Roach, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Sharon Stanley, Andrew & Irene Sziszak and Barbara Wilson

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange, Clarence & Faye Landeche, Landeche Family, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, Marie McCulloch, Ethel Prokop, E.D. Purvis, Gill Scioneaux, Gerard Lou Staub, Charles & Marie Stumpf and Stumpf Family

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 5:30PM Mass

George & Eric Navarre

Tuesday, December 30, 2025, 7:00AM Mass

(Weekday in the Octave of Christmas)

Samara St. Claire

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 6:00PM Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil)

Yancy Watkins

Thursday, January 1, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Lynette Pfiffner

Friday, January 2, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of Ss. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen)

Francis Kronlage



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 - St. Margaret Church
Sunday-8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel
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

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Gather Hymnal Number 1007

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Jewish advice on family relationships.

Colossians 3:12-21

Living as a family and a community.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Take the child and his mother,
and flee into Egypt.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 3/4, 2026

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 28, 2025

**KC Consecration to the Holy Family!
NO PSR Classes Today!**

2:00PM—**Sensory Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Monday, December 29, 2025

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

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

7:00AM—**Daily Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

**New Year's Eve!
Parish Office Closed**

6:00PM—**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Thursday, January 1, 2026

**Happy New Year!
Parish Office Closed!**

10:00AM—**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Friday, January 2, 2026

7:00AM—**Daily Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Saturday, January 3, 2026

**Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!
3:00PM—Confessions**, St. Margaret Church



**THERE WILL BE NO
EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION ON
WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 31, 2025.**

ALL ARE WELCOME
A Ministry for Individuals with Special Needs and Their Families

SENSORY FRIENDLY MASS

Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Margaret Catholic Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road, Hammond LA 70403

You were never meant
to walk life's journey alone.

Deacon Randall
Waguespack
225-446-8515
rwaguespack@diobr.org

In an effort to embrace and welcome the members of our Church with special needs and their families, the Diocese of Baton Rouge has begun hosting Sensory-Friendly Masses.

These Masses include lower lighting, softer music, and shorter, more literal homilies; most importantly, they provide fellowship with other parishioners on a similar journey. We encourage families and individuals to get up and move if needed, to bring alternative seating, fidgets or noise cancelling headphones, and to participate in the liturgy just as they are.



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
OFFICE OF LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE