

THE

JANUARY 10/11, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

*“This is my
beloved Son,
with whom I am
well pleased.”*

~Matthew 3:17

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 as we end this Christmas Season on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord! I love this Feast Day because it marks the end of the Christmas Season and is also considered the First Sunday of Ordinary Time.

For years, I misunderstood why Ordinary Time was called “Ordinary.” I used to believe it was called that because it was... well, just ordinary, mundane, or less important than the other liturgical seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter seasons, which seemed extraordinary!

Contrary to popular thought though, that is not why it is called Ordinary Time. The term “ordinary” comes from the Latin word *ordo*, which means “order.” Rather than focusing on one specific aspect of the mystery of Jesus Christ—such as His birth, passion, death, or resurrection—Ordinary Time focuses on the public ministry of Christ. The Gospel readings are taken “in order” as they appear in Scripture.

Because it is Year A in the liturgical calendar, we will be reading the public ministry of Christ in an “ordered sequence” from the Gospel of Matthew, including His teaching, preaching, healings, and miracles. This period of Ordinary Time allows the faithful to grow in our understanding of Christ’s everyday life and teachings and to apply these lessons to our own lives.

Green is used during this time because it is associated with growth and life. This period spans most of Our Lord’s public life, offering us time to reflect on His life so that we may grow in faith and holiness. Every year, the Church begins Ordinary Time with the Baptism of Our Lord because it was at this moment His public ministry began.

Soon, we will “pause” Ordinary Time to celebrate the Lenten and Easter seasons. Following the Solemnity of Pentecost, Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi, we will return to the “ordered sequence” of the public life of Jesus right where we left off before Lent.

One of the reasons I love being Catholic is in fact the liturgical year! As we begin this Ordinary Time, may it not be so “ordinary” for you, but a time to grow in faith extraordinarily!

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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.

MISSION KREWE INTEREST MEETING

All interested in joining our Mission Krewe to Texas this year must attend a mandatory meeting on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**, at **5:30PM** in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints. Parents or guardians along with those who would like to go on mission this year must attend this meeting. If you have any questions, you may call Baleigh Henderson in the parish office.

JANUARY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In December we provided food to 215 families (613 Individuals). Super thanks to the 54 volunteers who provided 189 service hours to make our monthly food distribution a wonderful blessing. Since we are at the maximum number of registered families that we can assist, registration is closed. We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, January 15, 2026**. Food Distribution from **9:00AM** until **11:00AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **11:30AM**. If you already volunteer, let your team leader know that you will be able to help. If you want to get involved, please call 985.969.7477 so we can best utilize your time and talents. The St. Margaret Food Distribution is the 3rd Thursday each month!

CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Every year the Louisiana State Knights of Columbus recognize one boy and one girl from each KC Council awarding them with a cash prize. If you are a high school senior and you would like to be considered for this honor, contact Glenn Young at 225.964.0947 for instructions/information to complete the online CYLA application form. The completed form **MUST** be emailed to rjyoung2@bellsouth.net before **Saturday, January 24, 2026**. *Our KC Council will award \$200 to each a boy and a girl, and they will become eligible to win other awards up to \$5,000!*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING SPIRIT

The generosity of the St. Margaret/St. Thomas parishioners is abundant and overwhelming. Families and organizations opened their hearts to help 33 families in our local community and made Christmas brighter for 115 children and their caregivers. As volunteers talked and met with the families during this project, we listened to the difficulties they face and we prayed with them to have strength and faith in the Lord. All expressed gratitude for the blessings they received from our community. The amazing generosity of those who participated in this project is a testament to our faith and commitment to the less fortunate. A big thank you from your St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. We are so grateful for your giving heart.

I, THE LORD, HAVE CALLED YOU

2026 ST. MARGARET
Mission Krewe

INTEREST MEETING

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 14 | 5:30PM

Join us if YOU are interested in attending the 2026 St. Margaret High School Mission Krewe this summer! High School Youth Group to follow. *A Parent or Guardian MUST attend!*

JULY 13-18, 2026
KERR COUNTY, TEXAS

"We, though many, are one body in Christ." Romans 12:5

Questions?
Contact Mrs. Baleigh
985-981-6524

BOOTS ON THE GROUND.
SERVING OTHERS.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS #2678

LADIES'

BUNCO NIGHT

FRIDAY
23RD
January
Start 6 pm

\$25 PER PERSON
Includes dinner, dessert & games

ST. MARGARET PARISH HALL
30300 Catholic Hall Rd, Albany

Cash Prizes for Most Wins & Most Losses

KINDLY RSVP 504-559-9863 (Sharon M)

Knights of Columbus Council 10178

**Rotisserie
Chicken Dinner**

Large Leg Quarter, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Bread & Dessert

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Drive thru pick up time 11:00AM until 12:30PM
at the Parish Hall.

\$11.00 per plate

Funds raised will benefit our charitable activities, including supporting and assisting many St. Margaret ministries and events.

Tickets will be sold outside of all Masses the weekend of January 17/18, 2026.

For more information, contact Glenn Young (225.964.0947).

**Two Hearts
Women's Prayer Breakfast**

All women are invited to come together for Breakfast, Fellowship & Prayer

Saturday, February 7, 2026
9:00am – 12:00pm
St. Dominic Hall, Husser, LA

Guest Speaker:
Cheryl Hamilton

Cheryl says:
The best advice I ever received was from Luke 1:37. "Nothing is impossible with God!" I believe that with all my heart and soul. From Catholic to Jewish and back home again. It's been a journey! Come and See!

Limited seating available
Please call or text Carol at 985-320-0051 or email reservation to womensprayerbreakfast24@gmail.com
Please make reservations before February 1, 2026
Please call if cancelling your reservations

BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LORD

The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

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, Paulette Duhe, Adeline Evans, Jimmy Giannobile, Wendy Gill, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Tristian Harrison, Ann Hassenbouhler, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Darrell Hoover, Tyler Hoover, Suzanne Howze, Teresa Ivanyisky, Melanie Johnston, Frank Kovach, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Patricia Matthews, Dwaine McDaniel, Maggie Millet, Terry Parrino, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Lester Sanchez, Brooklyn Sansone, Ricky Simoneaux, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, 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.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **January 3/4, 2026**, totaled:

\$13,464.00.

The **Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection** totaled:

\$5,222.00.

The **Second Collection** next weekend will be for our local **St. Vincent de Paul!**

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

**TO
GIVE...**



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!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Larry J. Evans by his Family.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Hilton Hoover, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patty Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Vito Tallia, Sr. and Russell Wood

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, Clarence & Faye Landeche, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, Maria McCulloch, E.D. Purvis, Gill Scioneaux and Charles & Marie Stumpf

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

June Koles Olah

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

Friday, January 16, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

George & Eric Navarre

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?!

Come spend some time with Jesus and listen for His voice this new year, it may create a new you. Eucharistic Adoration is every Wednesday from **7:30AM** until **8:00PM**. Committed adorers are always needed. Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225.921.4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

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

The Baptism of the Lord
Gather Hymnal Number 1012

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

The servant of the Lord
will establish justice.

Acts 10:34-38

God's word to Israel is fulfilled in Christ.

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus is baptized in the Jordan.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17/18, 2026
Isaiah 49:3,5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Respect Life Baby Bottle Second Collection!

11:15AM—Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6), Hall of Saints
11:15AM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 3), St. Margaret Church
6:45PM—Parish School of Religion (Grades 7-8), Hall of Saints
6:45PM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 7), St. Margaret Church
6:45PM—Parish School of Religion (Grade 9-11), Parish Hall

Monday, January 12, 2026

8:15AM—Catholic Schoolhouse, Hall of Saints
5:00PM—Mondays with Mary, St. Margaret Church
5:30PM—St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

8:30AM—St. Matthew's Guild, St. Cecilia Room
6:00PM—Vocation Awareness Ministry, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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

7:30AM—Eucharistic Adoration, St. Margaret Church
9:00AM—Monthly Staff Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
5:30PM—Mission Krewe Interest Meeting, St. Margaret Room
6:30PM—OCIA, St. Jean Vianney Room
6:30PM—KC Fourth Degree Meeting, St. Maria Goretti Room
6:30PM—High School Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room



Thursday, January 15, 2026

9:00AM—Monthly Food Distribution, Church Grounds
4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church
5:30PM—CDA Rosary, St. Ignatius Room
6:00PM—Catholic Daughters Meeting, St. Ignatius Room



Friday, January 16, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, January 17, 2026

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!
KC Fundraiser Dinner Ticket Sales!
3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church