

THE

JANUARY 17/18, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*“Behold the Lamb
of God, who
takes away the
sin of the world.”*
~John 1:29



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! I am writing to let you know that both Fr. Kumar and I will be away this coming week.

Fr. Kumar will be traveling with our high schoolers for the **March for Life Pilgrimage** from **Monday, January 19th through the 24th**. Please pray for his sanity as he endures the 24-hour bus ride to D.C. and back! Most importantly, please pray for our students' safety as they open their hearts to their Catholic faith and march for the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death, in our nation's capital. The week promises to be filled with fun, faith, and chilly weather. We hope to share photos of their journey on our Facebook page!

I will also be away this same week to attend my annual silent retreat. This is a practice I have kept almost every year as a priest, and I always find it to be grace-filled and much-needed. I will return on **Monday, January 26th**. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will certainly be praying for you.

Finally, I want to give you a "heads up" about another upcoming event. This year's Diocesan Priest Retreat is mandatory for both Fr. Kumar and me, meaning we will both be away again from **February 2nd through the 5th**.

Schedule Changes

Please note the following adjustments to our sacramental schedule:

- January 20th through 23rd: No daily Mass nor Confession on Thursday.
- February 2nd through 5th: No daily Mass.
- Thursday, February 5th: Confessions **WILL** be held in the afternoon at 4:00PM as regularly scheduled.

Have a wonderful week!

God bless,

Fr. Paul



PS After my homily last weekend on AI, I want to share the link to the incredibly sad and alarming article that I referred to about the young man who was heavily influenced by an AI Chatbot before taking his own life. The article is from the National Catholic Register: <https://www.ncregister.com/news/megan-garcia-sewell-setzer-iii-commits-suicide-ai-chatbot> (the QR code above will bring you to the article). Though there are real dangers with AI, it also can be particularly useful especially learning about our Catholic Faith. One app that I have subscribed to is called "Truthly." Truthly only pulls its information from authentic Catholic resources. In my opinion, it seems to be accurate and helpful in looking up questions or resources on different Catholic topics while also giving daily opportunities for prayer and formation in the faith.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

There will be NO Daily Mass next week from **Tuesday, January 20** through **Friday, January 23, 2026**. Fr. Paul will be on a much needed silent retreat and Fr. Kumar is on pilgrimage with our March for Life pilgrims. We will NOT have Confession on **Thursday, January 22, 2026**, but we WILL have Adoration on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**.

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 rgyoung2@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!*

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Join the St. Margaret Respect Life Ministry and the Youth Group for a baby shower to support our local pregnancy crisis center on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in the Parish Hall! Baby wipes and diapers of any size are appreciated. Dinner will be served, and all parishioners are invited to attend!

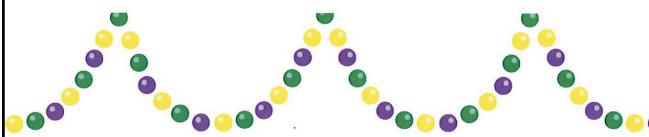
CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Tax time is right around the corner! If you are a **registered** parishioner and need a statement of your annual contributions to our Church community for 2025, please call Peggy Desselle at extension 103 and leave her a message with your name and specific request. Thank you for your generosity to our parish all throughout the year! Parishioners really make St. Margaret a dynamic parish!

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.

MY GOD IS MY STRENGTH



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)



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

2026 ST. MARGARET PASSION PLAY

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026, 1:30 - 4:00 PM
(ONLY WITH JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH, ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, & ELIZABETH)

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

NO PRACTICE FEBRUARY 15, 2026, FOR MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY!

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

NO PRACTICE SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026, FOR ST. JOSEPH ALTAR!

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM
COME READY FOR HEADSHOTS & GROUP PHOTO!!!

PRACTICE: SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026, 1:30 - 4:30 PM
FINAL PRACTICE!!!

DRESS REHEARSAL:
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 PM (DURING YOUTH GROUP)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 (OPTIONAL)
12:00 PM (ST. MARGARET)

VENERATION OF THE CROSS: FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 (OPTIONAL)
3:00 PM (ST. THOMAS CHAPEL)

PERFORMANCES!!!
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026, 7:30 PM

ST. MARGARET PARISH HALL

**USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!
PLEASE CONTACT US IF INTERESTED
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!**

CONTACT:

BALEIGH HENDERSON: 985-981-6524

MOLLY MCCARROLL: 985-687-8607 | RACHEL MCCARROLL: 985-969-8182



 Dominican Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates in Mission

FREE EVENT!

BEYOND GIVING THINGS UP: Lenten Discernment Retreat

Retiro de discernimiento Cuaresmal
Tĩnh Tâm Mùa Chay về Phân Định

FEB 27
6-8 PM EST; 5-7 CST; 4-6 MT; 3-5 PT

FEB 28
1-3:30 PM; 12-2:30 CST;
11:30 MT; 10-2:30 PT

We invite:
Single, Catholic women,
ages 18-45, for a
two-day Zoom & See

Secure your spot by February 20 →



BE PRESENT FOR THE LORD

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

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, Erica Montz, Terry Parrino, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Lester Sanchez, Brooklyn Sansone, Valerii Sekisov & Family, Ricky Simoneaux, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Annie Tallia, Trysten Tucker, 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 10/11, 2026**, totaled:

\$15,973.00.

The **Respect Life Baby Bottle Campaign Second Collection** totaled:

\$3,531.00.

The **Special Collection** next weekend will be for the **Church in Latin America!**

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
George & Eric Navarre by Kim Navarre.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 17, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Fr. Mark Beard, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Martha Brown, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Linda C. Gaudin, Ricky Genre, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Howard Kidder, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, George & Eric Navarre, 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 18, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, Donivan Jones, Fulton Charles Hebert, John LaGrange, Clarence & Faye Landeche, Landeche Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Maria McCulloch, Charles & Marie Stumpf and Stumpf Family

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Charlie Kirk

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, NO Mass (Memorial of St. Agnus)

Thursday, January 22, 2026, NO Mass
(Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children)

Friday, January 23, 2026, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of the **George Navarre** by Kim Navarre. 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 - 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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1095

Isaiah 49:3,5-6

The servant will bring salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

All who call upon the name of Jesus are called to be holy.

John 1:29-34

John proclaims Jesus as the Son of God and the Lamb of God.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 24/25, 2026
Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthew 4:12-23

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 18, 2026

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

KC Rotisserie Chicken Dinner Ticket Sales!

11:15AM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6)**, Hall of Saints

11:15AM—**Circle of Grace (Grade 2)**, Hall of Saints

11:15AM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 4)**, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—**KC Seminarian Mission Raffle Ticket Sales**, Outside Mass

6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades 7-8)**, Hall of Saints

6:45PM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 8)**, St. Margaret Church

6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grade 9-11)**, Parish Hall

Monday, January 19, 2026

March for Life Pilgrimage Begins!

8:15AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints

1:00PM—**St. Faustina's Stitches**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

March for Life Pilgrimage!

NO Daily Mass Today!

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

6:00PM—**Respect Life Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

March for Life Pilgrimage!

NO Daily Mass Today!

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

6:30PM—**OCIA**, St. Jean Vianney Room



Thursday, January 22, 2026

March for Life Pilgrimage!

NO Daily Mass Today!

NO Confessions Today!

11:00AM—**KC Rotisserie Chicken Dinner**, Parish Hall



Friday, January 23, 2026

March for Life Pilgrimage!

NO Daily Mass Today!

6:00PM—**CDA Bunco Fundraiser**, Parish Hall

Saturday, January 24, 2026

March for Life Pilgrims Return!

Church in Latin America Special Collection!

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