

THE

JANUARY 24/25, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*“The people who sit
in darkness have
seen a great light.”*
~Matthew 4:16



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

LET THERE BY LIGHT

By John Foley, SJ

A single candle, placed in a darkened Winter window, will charm us.

Picture it in your mind and then compare it to a room with powerful florescent lights. In the latter, every nook and cranny gets equal light, lots of it. There are no shades of grey. The wrinkles and imperfections of a human face want to run and hide because all their mess is made very obvious.

Now think of a room lit by several candles. Somehow the better parts of each face are brought out and the flaws are left kindly in the background. Such lights pardon our imperfections and grant us a kind of glow.

Jesus is that kind of light. Not a searchlight from which no flawed, fumbling thing can escape. He came as a simple candle, a forgiver of souls, a quiet lover of human faces.

There is a passage in the First Reading for Sunday that is quoted word for word in Sunday's Gospel.

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.*

Here, Jesus is a great light after all. He is relief from the dark that we all walk in. He is divine brilliance.

But the Gospel has him ambling along by the Sea of Galilee like an ordinary person. Strolling. How can this illustrious beam of light be dim, like the rest of us?

Some speculations:

Maybe he is especially vital, the type that people are attracted to. Maybe he is someone you and I would automatically want to follow. After all, on Sunday we will hear about two sets of brothers who drop everything and go after him: Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and then James and John—the sons of Zebedee, or “sons of thunder,” as Jesus will call them later. None of these men are fools. They would not follow just anyone. Jesus must have been a very appealing person.

So, did they see him as a “great light”? Did they somehow acknowledge that grave darkness would be dispelled by him? They probably had heard from the Baptist that Jesus was “The Messiah,” the one that the Jews had been awaiting for such a long time.

Yet this Sunday we learn that Jesus’ light did not infringe on every precious cranny of people’s lives, as a searchlight might do. He was like a quiet glow, a candle in the window. His armies did not savage all in their path. His light was not a huge bolt of lightning. It was, impossibly, a quiet flicker that hurricane winds tried and tried to put out, but could not. Seen in this way, Christ’s light was indeed great, but in a new way, in an ordinary, diffused way. One that could suffer on our behalf.

Pope Benedict XVI put it like this:

God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby—defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Join the St. Margaret Respect Life Ministry and our 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!

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

There will be NO Daily Mass next week from **Tuesday, February 3** through **Thursday, February 5, 2026**. Fr. Paul and Fr. Kumar will be attending a mandatory annual priest retreat. We WILL have Confession on **Thursday, February 5, 2026**, and we WILL have Adoration on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026**.

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



WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE STRONG

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ESSAY WINNER!

Congratulations to **Anthony St. Cyr**, a 9th grade parishioner here at St. Margaret Church! After winning the Citizenship Essay Contest sponsored by the St. Margaret Knights of Columbus, Anthony's essay advanced to the Baton Rouge Diocese level of competition where he won again! He was awarded a second cash prize and now advances to compete for the State Championship Competition. That winner will be awarded \$200, and advances to the National Championship level. We wish Anthony the best of luck!



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A... DEACON?

Dates and times for our **FIVE** information sessions are on the back of this card. For more information, contact Deacon Terry Bellon at tbellon@diobr.org.



diobr.org/diaconate-formation



SESSION I

*Saturday, January 17, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. George Catholic Church,
Kleinpeter Activity Center*

SESSION II

*Saturday, January 31, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. George Catholic Church,
Kleinpeter Activity Center*

SESSION III

*Saturday, February 14, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. George Catholic Church,
Kleinpeter Activity Center*

SESSION IV

*Saturday, February 28, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. George Catholic Church,
Kleinpeter Activity Center*

SESSION V

*Saturday, March 14, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University,
Executive Board Room in St. Francis Hall*

THE LORD IS MY STRONGHOLD

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

HEALING POWER: PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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, Ann Hassenbouhler, Tristian Harrison, 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, Carolyn Toole, 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 17/18, 2026**, totaled:

\$12,969.50.

The **St. Vincent de Paul Society Second Collection** totaled:

\$3,075.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

CELEBRATE YOUR 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!

TO
GIVE...



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in honor of
the **Manina Family** by Kim Manina.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Darrel & Cynthia Amato, Nathan & Shanna Amato, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, David Kraft, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Manina Family, Kelsey Martin, Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Dustin Novak, Henry Novak, Sue Novak, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Vito Tallia, Sr., Charles Watkins and Russell Wood

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Marie Babineaux, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert, John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin and Maria McCulloch

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Virginia "Gina" Mocsary

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Fr. Paul Gros & Fr. Kumar Kolakani

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, January 30, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1098

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Paul urges unity among the dissenting Corinthians.

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his ministry.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 7/8, 2026
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 25, 2026

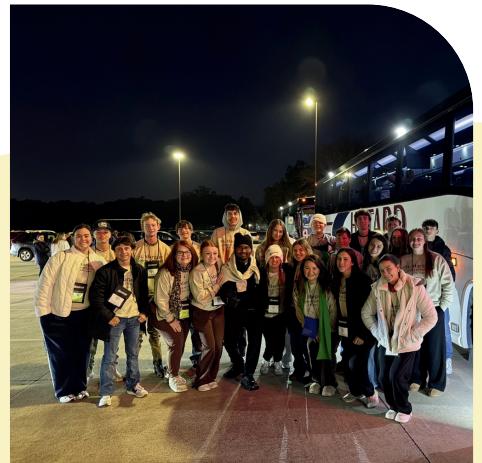
Church in Latin America Special Collection!

NO PSR Classes Due to Potential of Severe Weather!

Monday, January 26, 2026

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

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



Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

1:00PM—**Staff Faith Formation**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:00PM—**Community Baby Shower**, Parish Hall

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

Thursday, January 29, 2026

4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church



Friday, January 30, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, January 31, 2026

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

