

THE

JANUARY 31/FEBRUARY 1, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*“Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will
be great in Heaven.”*

~Matthew 5:12a

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



11 January 2026

To the Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Baton Rouge:

The annual retreat for priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be 02-05 February 2026 at St. Charles College at the Jesuit Retreat Center at Grand Coteau. These days of prayer and contemplation represent an important occasion for their renewal and growth in spiritual formation and well-being. As such, participation by our active priests is mandatory.

Thus, their temporary absence during this period of retreat will affect certain regular pastoral ministries. In particular, the schedule of weekday Masses and possible times for funeral Masses will be impacted and adjusted in your parish to meet needs of our priests during this time of renewal. While I recognize that this is a sacrifice, I consider this a sacrifice worth making. Deacons can provide needed funeral rites (the Wake Service, a Funeral without Mass, and the Rite of Committal). If the local parish staff is unable to secure a deacon for funeral needs, the parish staff may call the Office of the Vicar General by dialing 225.387.0561 for further assistance.

Thank you for understanding and supporting our priests with their ongoing formation and renewal for ministry! Please pray for our priests and our diocese during these days. I appreciate your affirmation and encouragement of our priests who give their lives for our diocese. May God be generous in leading us into a future filled with hope.

Hope in the Lord,

+Michael S. Duca
Most Reverend Michael G. Duca
Bishop of Baton Rouge

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

There will be NO Daily Mass 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**. Please pray for our priests during this time!

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR PLANNING MEETING

The St. Joseph Altar will be on **March 15, 2026**. There will be a planning meeting on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**, at **9:30AM** in the St. Elizabeth Seton Room of the Hall of Saints. If you are interested in working with the St. Joseph Altar, please join us! For additional information, contact John or Mary Gaeta at 225.567.2193 or 985.320.6520.

LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS RETURN

Tickets for our Lenten Meatless Meals will be on sale beginning next weekend, **February 7/8, 2026**. As in the past, the meals are different every week including fried fish, gumbo, corn & crab bisque and crawfish etouffee. The tickets are \$12 per meal and the first meal of fried fish, corn on the cob, garlic buttered potatoes, bread and dessert will be available on **Friday, February 20, 2026**. Proceeds will benefit our various service ministries.

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the family and friends of the newest Catholics welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of January: **Cecilia DiBenedetto, Montana Thames, Rainier Thames, Charlie Bates, and Riley Ribando**. Contact Peggy Dessel in the parish office if you are interested in having your child baptized!

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS NEEDED

A Hospitality Minister is that first person you meet as you enter St. Margaret and St. Thomas. It is the warm welcome and generous smile or the opening of the door and helping you find a place to sit among the congregation that keeps folks coming back. Our Ministers of Hospitality are there to welcome, assist and assure that everyone's time of worship with us is inviting. Please contact the ministry chairperson, Kim Navarre at 985.634.5366, if you can help evangelize by welcoming all into our Church. We are currently in need of additional Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) especially for **10:00AM** Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

What better way to serve the Lord than to serve Him at the Altar? As an Altar Server, you will assist the Priest or Deacon with the preparation of the Altar, present the Roman Missal for opening and closing prayers, and receive the gifts presented by the congregation, all with reverence and respect. We invite anyone who has received their First Communion to join us in this ministry. If you are interested in serving, please call Blayne Husser at 985.551.1968. We are currently in need of additional Altar Servers especially for **5:30PM** Mass.

SEEK JUSTICE, SEEK HUMILITY

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II applauds the daily heroism of mothers who selflessly devote themselves to their children. This modern-day saint also highlights the unfortunate reality that “these heroic women do not always find support in the world around them.” He goes on to say, “On the contrary, the cultural models frequently promoted and broadcast by the media do not encourage motherhood. In the name of progress and modernity the values of fidelity, chastity, sacrifice, to which a host of Christian wives and mothers have borne and continue to bear outstanding witness, are presented as obsolete” (EV 86).

A culture that fails to truly value motherhood naturally becomes hostile to the gift of new life. When the Church compassionately serves mothers, it witnesses to the beauty of human life. There is a great need for real, tangible assistance for expectant mothers. Christ calls us to serve those most alone and in need. In a world that often turns it back on mothers who sacrifice so much of themselves, may we, the Church’s members, rise to help mothers in need of assistance and support.

ACT (choose one)

- Do you regularly enjoy a meal out during the week? Or do you typically stop to get a cup of coffee each morning? Give up one of these small pleasures this week. Use the money you saved to make a donation to a local pregnancy center, food pantry, or charity that provides assistance to mothers in need.
- Pray the “Prayer for Pregnant Mothers” (walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers) throughout the next month. Consider adding it to your morning or evening prayers each day.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Join the Church’s effort to serve pregnant and parenting women in need called, Walking with Moms in Need. Take the pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community: www.walkingwithmoms.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy Father was thrilled to hear about the effort to support women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies through Walking with Moms in Need. Read more about Pope Francis’ response to this exciting initiative at walkingwithmoms.com/national-vigil-homily.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

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HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?

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!

THE LORD WILL REIGN FOREVER

Blessed the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

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.

STEWARSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of **January 24/25, 2026**, totaled:

\$11,897.00.

The Church in Latin America Special Collection totaled:

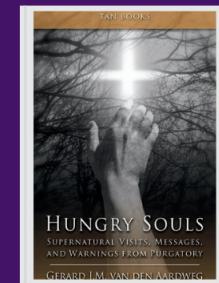
\$1,119.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO 
GIVE...

ONLINE BOOK STUDY
EVERY TUESDAY OF LENT 7PM
CENTRAL TIME



Does anyone go to purgatory anymore?
What does the Catholic Church teach about it?
Does everyone go there?
How can I help the souls in purgatory?

Join us this lent for sharing, discussion, and prayer based around the book, Hungry Souls by Gerard Aardweg, PhD.



Live, online, every
Tuesday of Lent
7:00pm Central Time
\$21 + Cost of Book



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NEW PEW AVAILABLE

St. Thomas has an extra brand new 7' pew, value \$2,800, looking for a new home. Suggested donation is \$2,000. If you are interested, call Butch at 504.452.2578.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in honor of
the **Fr. Paul Gros & Fr. Kumar Kolakani**.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 31, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Jeff Day,
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, Lawrence & Frank Leon, Manina Family,
Christopher D. Mays, Adam & Gina Mocsary,
Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Sue Novak, June Koles Olah,
Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Mary Prokop,
Vito Tallia, Sr. and Russell Wood

Sunday, February 1, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Shelby Aucoin, Lloyd Dominguez,
Fulton Charles Hebert, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza
and Maria McCulloch

Sunday, February 1, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, February 1, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Virginia "Gina" Mocsary

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Thursday, February 5, 2026, NO Mass (Memorial of St. Agatha)

Friday, February 6, 2026, 7:00AM Mass
(Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions)
Lynette Pfiffner

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1101

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

The remnant shall be
a humble and lowly people.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God chose those who count for nothing.

Matthew 5:1-12a

Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 7/8, 2026
Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 1, 2026

11:15AM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6)**, Hall of Saints
1:00PM—**Passion Play Practice**, Parish Hall
6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grades 7-8)**, Hall of Saints
6:45PM—**Parish School of Religion (Grade 9-11)**, Parish Hall

Monday, February 2, 2026

Priest Mandatory Annual Retreat!

8:15AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints
10:00AM—**St. Thomas Altar Society**, St. Thomas Chapel
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church



Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Priest Mandatory Annual Retreat!

NO Daily Mass Today!

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room
6:30PM—**KC & Ladies Faith Formation**, St. Margaret Room
7:00PM—**Knights of Columbus Meeting**, St. Margaret Room
7:00PM—**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

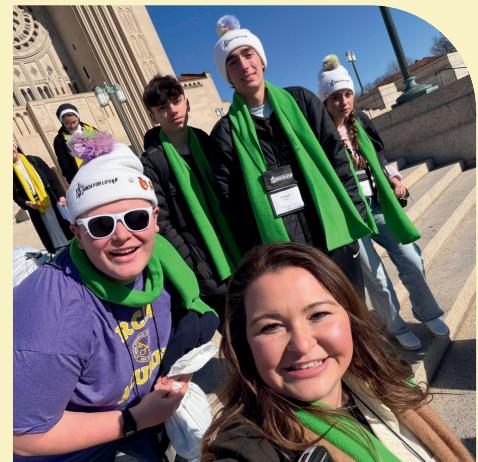


Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Priest Mandatory Annual Retreat!

NO Daily Mass Today!

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church
5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room
6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room
6:30PM—**OCIA**, St. Jean Vianney Room



Thursday, February 5, 2026

Priest Mandatory Annual Retreat!

NO Daily Mass Today!

9:30AM—**Divine Readers**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

Friday, February 6, 2026

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

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

10:00AM—**First Reconciliation**, St. Margaret Church
3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church