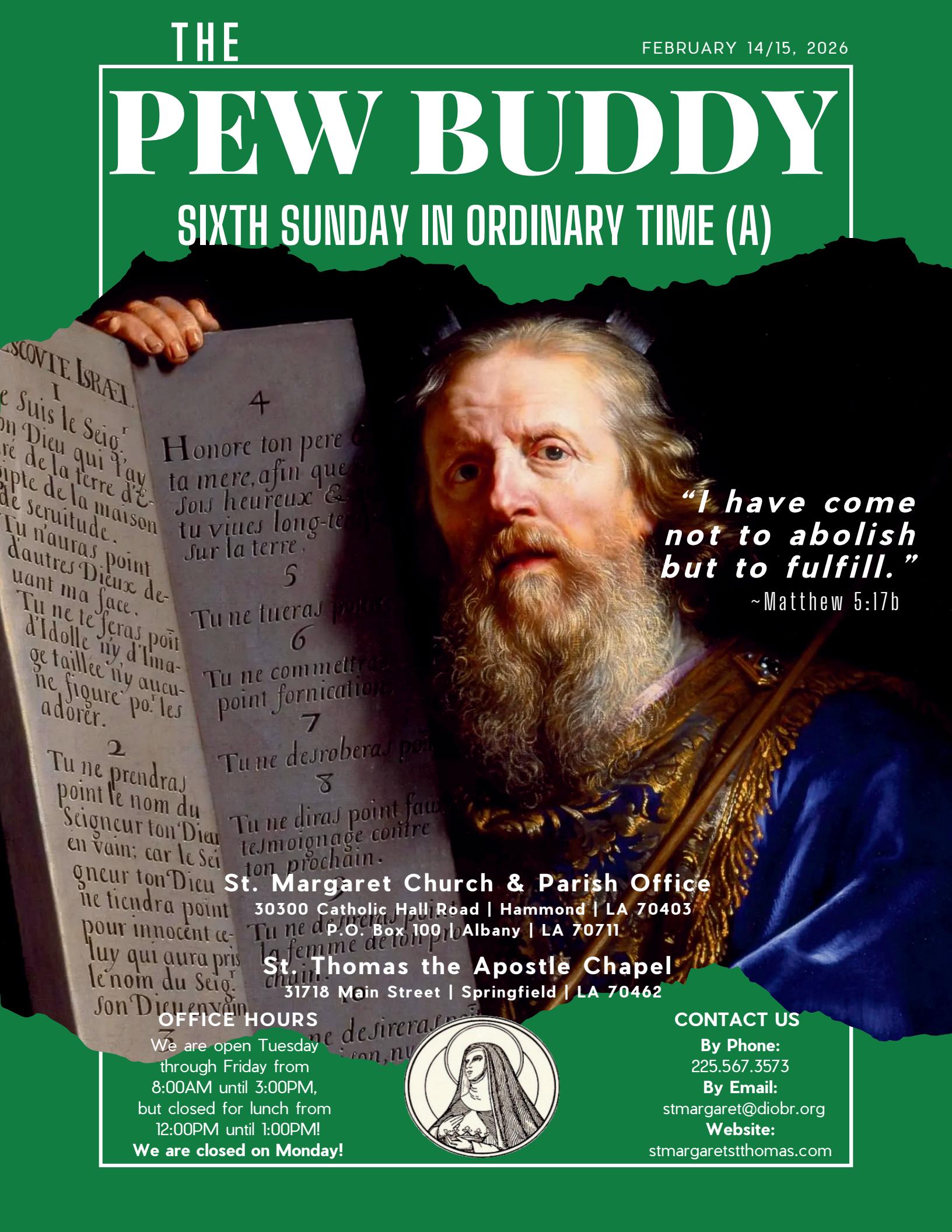


THE

FEBRUARY 14/15, 2026

# THE PEW BUDDY

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



***"I have come  
not to abolish  
but to fulfill."***

~Matthew 5:17b

**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! It is already here...**Lent begins next week!** The Season of Lent is a profound transition in the liturgical year, intended to be a time of transformation for Catholics who take it seriously.

In Scripture, numbers often have real significance. The number **40** often symbolizes a time of purification, trial, preparation, and transformation. We see this throughout salvation history:

- **The Great Flood** in the Book of Genesis lasted 40 days (Gn 7:12).
- **The Israelites** wandered the desert for 40 years before they could enter the Promised Land (Nm 14:33-34).
- **Moses** was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments (Ex 24:18).
- **Jesus**, as we see in next weekend's Gospel, spent 40 days and 40 nights in the desert tempted by the devil immediately after His Baptism (Mt 4:1-2).

The Season of Lent is a time to reexamine our lives, recommit to our calling as disciples of Jesus, repent of unconfessed sins, and perform acts of penance—prayer, fasting, or almsgiving—to better prepare our hearts for the central message of the Christian faith: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.

## FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Remember that the Church requires those over the age of 14 to **abstain from meat** on the Fridays of Lent (unless one is ill). This practice unites us with the sacrifice of Christ and reminds us that it was on this day that Jesus gave up His flesh for the life of the world.

Additionally, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (unless ill) are required to **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. Fasting typically means eating only one full meal, with the possibility of two smaller meals that do not equal a full-size meal. Snacks or drinks (other than water) are not allowed between meals.

Let us make this Lent truly what it is intended to be for our spiritual lives, so that we are prepared for Holy Week and can more deeply enter into the Paschal Mystery.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

(See the **Lenten Calendar** provided on page 3 of this bulletin for details.)

1. **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**
2. **NEW DAILY MASS & MONDAYS WITH MARY**
3. **LENTEN BOOK STUDY** with Fr. Paul on *Anima Christi: Soul of Christ* by Mother Mary Francis, PCC, a line-by-line meditation on our after Holy Communion prayer we sing.
4. **CONFESIONS:** Please take the time to make a good confession and receive the graces the Lord desires for your soul! Besides those times in the Lenten Calendar, Fr. Kumar and I will offer confessions at St Margaret on Good Friday from 8:30AM until 12:00PM, after daily Mass or by appointment.
5. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
6. **LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS**
7. **FORMED.ORG:** St. Margaret has a subscription, meaning you can create your own account for free! Formed offers wonderful Lenten material.
  - Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup).
  - Search “St. Margaret Queen of Scotland” or “70403”.
  - Register with your name and email address.

Have a wonderful week!

**Fr. Paul**

# EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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## MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In January we provided food for 195 families (565 individuals). Thanks to the 66 volunteers who bring the light of Christ to recipients as they come to pick up much needed food. Your commitment to this ministry makes our monthly food distribution a wonderful blessing. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and Catholic Charities Baton Rouge have been able to provide a very nice supply of perishable food and food boxes. Please pray that they continue to be able to get the much-needed food each month. Registration for new people to sign up for the monthly food distribution is closed until July. We look forward to seeing you on **February 19, 2026**. Food Distribution is from **9:00AM** until **11:00AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **11:30AM**. If you are already volunteering, 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. Our monthly food distribution is always on the third Thursday of every month!

## THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next "Theology in a Bottle," our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, February 22, 2026**, at **6:45PM** (following the 5:30PM Mass). Allison Daigle with Women's New Life Clinic will present "Simply Sweet: A Taste into New Life." She will be touching on topics such as pro-life awareness, the Women's New Life Clinic, resources available, and how we can all become involved as a community to help and support this cause.

## CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The St. Margaret KC Council has judged the CYLA applications and chosen the 12th grade boy and girl 2025-2026 winners for the Catholic Youth Leadership Award. Hunter Layrisson is the girl's winner, and Jack Beard is the boy's winner. They each have won a \$200 award from the Council in this competition and will be recognized in April at the KC and Ladies Auxiliary Youth Appreciation Banquet here at St. Margaret. Hunter and Jack's applications are advancing to the next level of competition, against the boy or girl winners from every KC Council in Louisiana that submitted winners. The State Council will select the top 5 boys' and girls' applications to advance. Those 10 boys and girls will be invited to attend the CYLA STATE Finals in Baton Rouge on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**. Everyone invited will win a cash prize between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Congratulations to Hunter and Jack, the St. Margaret community wishes them the best in the CYLA competition levels to come, and in all the future endeavors ahead of them!

## ST. JOSEPH ALTAR NEWS

The St. Joseph Altar will be **Sunday, March 15, 2026**, in the parish hall. The weekend of **February 21/22, 2026**, blessed St. Joseph votive candles will be available in front of both churches for an offering of \$5.00 each. Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret Church. The candles will be available through the day of the St. Joseph Altar. For more information, contact John or Mary Gaeta at (225) 567-2193 or (985) 320-6520.

# LENTEN CALENDAR

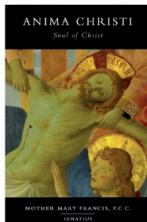
## ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday. The Mass schedule for **Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**, is **7:00AM** at St. Margaret Church, **12:00 noon** at St. Thomas Chapel, and **6:00PM** at St. Margaret Church. Make plans to attend!



## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every **Wednesday** at St. Margaret Church. Adoration begins after **7:00AM** Mass and concludes at **8:00PM**.



## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Join Fr. Paul Gros for a special Lenten book Study beginning **Thursday, February 19, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in St. Margaret Church. The study will be on the book gifted at this weekend's Masses, *Anima Christi: Soul of Christ* by Mother Mary Francis, PCC. The group will meet for six weeks ending on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. Hope to see you there!

## LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS

Fridays during Lent starting **February 20, 2026**, until **March 27, 2026**, (except for **March 13, 2026**, for the St. Joseph Altar) from **4:00-6:15PM**, the Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary and Youth Group will provide meatless meals for purchase. More information can be found on our website or on the flyer below.



## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Don't forget that our Mass Schedule is as follows:

**Monday** at **5:30PM** (beginning **February 23**), **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday** at **7:00AM** at St. Margaret; **Saturday Vigil Mass** at **4:00PM** at St. Margaret; **Sunday** at **8:00AM** at St. Thomas; **10:00AM & 5:30PM** at St. Margaret.

## RECONCILIATION

Every **Thursday** from **4:00-5:00PM**, every **Saturday** from **3:00-3:45PM**, **Fridays** during Lent from **3:00PM-5:00PM**, and **Sundays** during Lent from **4:30PM-5:30PM** at St. Margaret Church.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at **5:30PM** at St. Margaret Church.



### FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2026

FRIED FISH, CORN ON THE COB, GARLIC POTATOES, BREAD & DESSERT



### FRIDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2026

SEAFOOD GUMBO, RICE, POTATO SALAD, CRACKERS & DESSERT



### FRIDAY, 06 MARCH 2026

CORN & CRAB BISQUE, CAESAR SALAD, CHEESY POTATOES, CRACKERS & DESSERT



### FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2026

CRAWFISH ÉTOUFFÉE, RICE, GREEN BEANS, BREAD & DESSERT



### FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2026

FRIED FISH, GREEN BEANS, GARLIC POTATOES, BREAD & DESSERT



## HOW TO GO

# Meatless on Fridays in Lent

### GOOD FOR THE SPIRIT & THE BODY

### SPONSORED BY:

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LADIES AUXILIARY AND THE YOUTH GROUP

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MISSION KREWE 2026 AND SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.

### ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

30300 CATHOLIC HALL ROAD  
(HAMMOND BY GPS)  
PARISH HALL ~ ALBANY, LA

4:00PM TO 6:15PM  
\$12.00 PER PLATE



# WALK IN THE LORD'S LAW

*Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!*

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED 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, Ann Hassenbouhler, Tristian Harrison, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Bill 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 **February 7/8, 2026**, totaled:

**\$14,232.50.**

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

**\$2,309.00.**

The **Special Collection** next weekend is for the **Black & Indian Missions!**

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO  
GIVE... 



**COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER**

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
**9:30 am - 11:30 am**  
Catholic Life Center  
Ballroom & Pavillion  
1800 S. Acadian Thwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**Donate**  
Scan the code below to make a donation for newborn and postpartum supplies.

**Volunteer**  
Scan the code below to sign up for a shift to help pack diaper bags, set up, host, or clean up.

 The Roman Catholic Diocese of  
**BATON ROUGE**

 CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE

 MARY'S HANDS  
NETWORK

 Walking with  
Mama in Need

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of  
**George & Eric Navarre** by Kim Navarre.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is burning for  
all the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Barbara Connick, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Frank & Justin Goelz, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, David Kraft,

Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Philip & Irene Leon, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Gary McShan, Adam & Gina Mocsary, George & Josephine Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere,

George & Eric Navarre, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Conrad Rossie, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Vito Tallia, Sr., Barbara Wilson and Russell Wood

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Caleb Degenhardt, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, Maria McCulloch and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Beatrice Vander Pluymn

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, NO Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, (Ash Wednesday)

7:00AM Mass

Lynette Pfiffner

12:00PM Mass (St. Thomas)

Yancy Watkins

6:00PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)

Fred Armond, Jr.

Friday, February 20, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Friday after Ash Wednesday)

Michael Jude LeJeune & Christopher D. Mays

## SANCTUARY LAMP AT ST. THOMAS CHAPEL

Now that the renovation at St. Thomas is complete and we have a new sanctuary lamp with an actual candle, we can offer the burning of the sanctuary lamp in memory or honor of a loved one. If you are interested in having the lamp burn for your loved one for a week, please call Tammy in the parish office.

# PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

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## 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

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
**Gather Hymnal Number 1107**

### Sirach 15:15-20

God has given us the freedom to act responsibly.

### 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

God's wisdom is for the spiritually mature.

### Matthew 5:17-37

Living beyond the letter of the law.

### Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

*First Sunday in Lent*  
*February 21/22, 2026*  
**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**  
**Romans 5:12-19**  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

**Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!**

**CDA Valentine Bake Sale After All Masses!**

**No PSR Classes Today!**



**Monday, February 16, 2026**

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

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

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

**Mardi Gras!**

**Parish Office Closed Today!**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**Ash Wednesday! Lent Begins!**

**Church in Eastern Europe Special Collection!**

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

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

**12:00PM—Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Thomas Chapel**

**5:00PM—Adoration Ends, St. Margaret Church**

**6:00PM—Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Margaret Church**



**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**9:00AM—Monthly Food Distribution, Church Grounds**

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

**5:30PM—CDA Rosary, St. Margaret Room**

**6:00PM—Catholic Daughters Meeting, St. Margaret Room**

**6:00PM—Fr. Paul/Anima Christi Book Study, St. Margaret Church**

**Friday, February 20, 2026**

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

**4:00PM—Lenten Meatless Meals, Parish Hall**

**5:30PM—Stations of the Cross, St. Margaret Church**



**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!**

**Black & Indian Missions Special Collection!**

**7:00AM—Confirmation Retreat (Grades 9-11), Parish Hall**

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

**4:00PM—KC Quarterly Mass & Communion, St. Margaret Church**

## NEW MASS SCHEDULED

Beginning **Monday, February 23, 2026**, at **5:30PM**, join us for the celebration of the Mass following the Mondays with Mary Rosary.