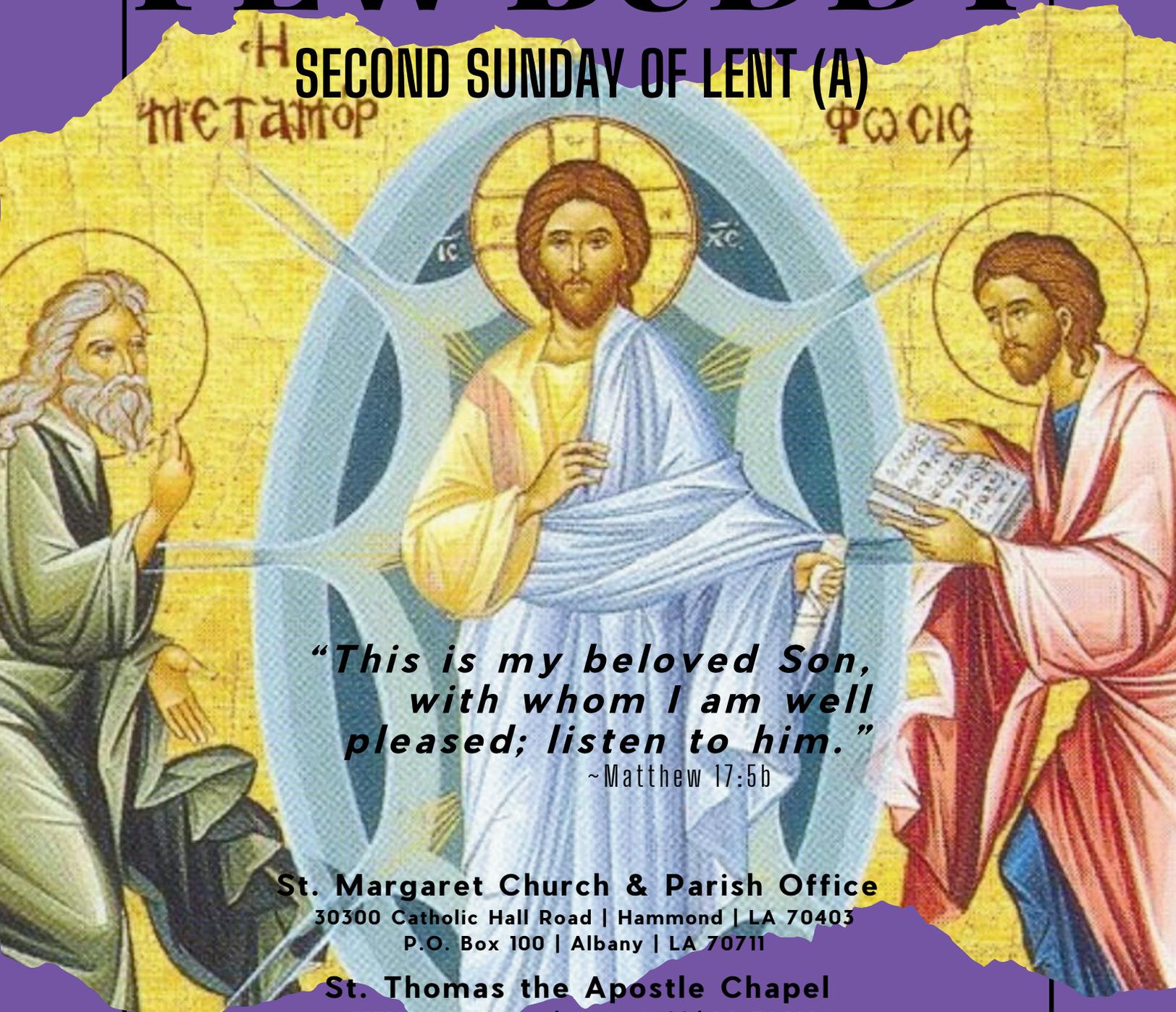


THE

FEBRUARY 28/MARCH 1, 2026

PEW BUDDY

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



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

~Matthew 17:5b

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 be with you this Second week of Holy Lent! Last week I heard a good analogy describing what Lent is all about: Lent is like an extended pre-game show before the main event. Lent prepares us through penance—fasting, prayer, and almsgiving—to detach ourselves from inordinate desires and disordered affections in our hearts, so that our hearts may be even more attached to Jesus as we approach the main event which is Holy Week. This is what the Lord desires for you and me: that we may be filled with His glory and His light, as He revealed to His three apostles in the Transfiguration this weekend.

I want to thank a generous parishioner who donated a handmade kneeler to St. Thomas Chapel to be used for weddings and during Sunday Mass. In the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM n. 160)—which is basically the instruction manual on how Mass should be celebrated—it states: “The norm established for the Dioceses of the United States of America is that Holy Communion is to be received standing, *unless an individual member of the faithful wishes to receive Communion while kneeling.*” This gives the faithful the option to stand or kneel to receive Holy Communion.

Those who wish to kneel but cannot do so on the floor are welcome to use the kneeler. I will be asking the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to stand to the side of the kneeler for those who wish to receive standing, and to step behind the kneeler for those who wish to kneel. This way, those who stand will not have the kneeler between them and the minister.

As I have stressed in the past, the most important thing to remember is that the reception of Holy Communion should be conducted with reverence, whether we stand or kneel, and whether we receive in the hand or on the tongue. What matters most is the **disposition of the heart!**

Again, thank you for your continued reverence for Our Lord Jesus, present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist!

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

BIBLE STUDY - BOOK OF HEBREWS

Beginning **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, and continuing on Tuesdays for the following five weeks, St. Margaret will offer a Bible Study on the book of Hebrews. Each session will be from **9:30AM** until **11:00AM** and consists of an opening prayer, video lecture and a discussion on the readings. The cost of the materials per person is **\$15.00**. The sessions will take place in the St. Ignatius Room of the Hall of Saints. Come by the parish office to pick up your book and read the first chapter. Men and women of all ages are welcome! For more information contact Christine at caribe500@gmail.com or 504-450-7343.

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR NEWS

The St. Joseph Novena begins **Saturday, March 7, 2026**, and the recited prayers will include the Rosary, familiar St. Joseph prayers, and the Litany to St. Joseph. All novena prayers will take place at St. Margaret Church. Please refer to the St. Joseph Altar flyer on page 3 of this bulletin for the full schedule. Receptacles in which to deposit your prayer intentions can be found near the entrances of both St. Margaret and St. Thomas churches. Your prayer intentions will be kept wholly confidential, stored at St. Margaret and burned in the Easter fire just prior to the Easter Vigil Mass. For further information, please contact John or Mary Gaeta at 225-567-2193 or 985-320-6520.

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS

Tickets for our Lenten Meatless Meals will be on sale outside of all Masses. 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 our next meal of crab & corn bisque, Caesar salad, cheesy potatoes, Club crackers and dessert will be available on **Friday, March 6, 2026**. Proceeds will benefit our various service ministries.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

What are you doing for Lent? A great way to spend an hour or so with Jesus this Lent is in the silence of Eucharistic Adoration. At St. Margaret, Jesus is present on the Altar on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. Contact Gretchen Johnson for more information at 225-921-4071 or gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland ST. JOSEPH ALTAR Sunday, March 15, 2026

(Following 10:00AM Mass)

Parish Hall, 30300 Catholic Hall Road, Albany, (Hammond, by GPS)

All are invited to participate, celebrate, and give glory to God in honor of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus!

A SPIRITUAL TRADITION

The altar arises from the rich spiritual tradition and patrimony of our Church that began centuries ago. In keeping with that tradition, all are invited to join in prayer by participating in the HOLY ROSARY and ST. JOSEPH NOVENA PRAYERS which will begin on Saturday, March 7, 2026. Please see the full schedule on the right for dates and times.

Also, we would like to place YOUR intentions on the St. Joseph Altar during our annual celebration. Receptacles have been placed near the entrances of both churches to deposit your novena prayer intentions which are wholly confidential. At the conclusion of the altar, these intentions will be stored at St. Margaret until the Easter Vigil where they will be burned in the Easter fire.



For more information contact John & Mary Gaeta at 225.567.2193 or 985.320.6520.

NOVENA SCHEDULE

Recited prayers will include the Rosary*, familiar St. Joseph prayers, and the Litany to St. Joseph. All novena prayers take place at St. Margaret Church:

Saturday March 7, 2026 3:30PM
Sunday March 8, 2026 5:00PM
Monday** March 9, 2026 4:55PM
Tuesday March 10, 2026 7:30AM
Wednesday March 11, 2026 7:30AM
Thursday March 12, 2026 7:30AM
Friday March 13, 2026 7:30AM
Saturday March 14, 2026 3:30PM
Sunday March 15, 2026 11:00AM
(following the 10:00 AM Mass)

Eucharistic Adoration will follow the Novena Prayers on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

*Divine Mercy Chaplet sung on March 15.

**Novena preceding Mondays with Mary Rosary

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS!

St. Margaret cannot produce such a beautiful and meaningful altar without your generosity! A special St. Joseph Altar envelope is included in the usual packet of envelopes each parishioner received for the month of March. Please place any and all donations in these envelopes and drop them in any first collection at Mass on any weekend leading up to the St. Joseph Altar. Envelopes are available at the entrances of both churches for individuals who are visiting or who do not regularly receive contribution packets. Make all checks payable to St. Margaret Church. You can also donate to the St. Joseph Altar by visiting our website at www.stmargaretstthomas.com and simply press the GIVE button. Thank you for your generosity!



If you know of any homebound parishioners or acquaintances who would like to receive food from the altar, please contact John Gaeta. Please have someone pick up this box for your homebound loved one after the celebration has concluded.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Aside from financial support, beginning Thursday, March 12, 2026, baked goods may be dropped off in the Ignatius Room of the Hall of Saints between the hours of 9:00AM to 1:00PM.



We welcome your favorite meatless casserole or salad. You may bring these dishes to the Hall of Saints on Saturday, March 14 or Sunday, March 15, 2026. Please let John or Mary Gaeta know what dish you will provide.

PUBLIC VIEWING

A public viewing of the altar will take place after the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 5:00PM until 6:00PM. Coffee and sfinoges (Italian donuts) or other treats will be served.



Immediately following the 10:00AM Mass on Sunday, March 15, 2026, the St. Joseph Novena will be recited and then all will process to the Parish Hall. The altar will then be blessed by Father Paul Gros, our Pastor. Father Paul will lead the meal prayer and slice the first piece of bread. All guests are invited to the Parish Hall to enjoy the meal.

BREAKING DOWN THE ALTAR

As everyone completes their meal, the altar is "broken," that is food is removed and guests can request food to be given to them by the Altar Committee. Leftover food is donated to the vulnerable in our community.



ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR US

Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

WE HOPE IN YOU, O LORD

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

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, Meghan Page, 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 21/22, 2026**, totaled:

\$12,665.00.

The **Special Collection**
for the **Black & Indian Missions** totaled:

\$1,102.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



WELCOME PARISHIONERS

Please give a warm welcome to these newly registered St. Margaret parishioners and their families: **Laura & Dale Douglas, Dominic Muguira** and **Lindsey Picard**. Thank you for becoming members of the St. Margaret community. Remember to “officially” register if you have not done so; registration forms are available on our website. *Family members are also asked to register when they turn 18 years of age.* Come grow with us on our journey toward the truth which is God’s love!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 8, 2026**. Time will “SPRING” forward an hour. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on **Saturday, March 9, 2026!**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is burning for the intentions
of our **Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.**

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Barbara Connick,
Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, Pete Fisher, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Anthony & Anna Friedman, Judy Friedman, Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre,
Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Alberta & Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family,
Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus,
Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso,
Victor & Mary Pepitone, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Mary & John J. Prokop, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Vito Tallia, Sr.
and Barbara Wilson

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

Jerry Adamcewicz, Ronnie Couvillier, Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert,
Annette Holliday, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza,
Glenn Lohfink, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin and Gerard Lou Staub

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

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

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

George & Eric Navarre

Monday, March 2, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Fr. Paul Gros

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Donivan Jones

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 7:00AM (Lenten Weekday)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, March 6, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Fr. Kumar Kolakani

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

Monday-5:30PM (after Mondays with Mary)
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 Lent
Gather Hymnal Number 1019

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's blessing and promise to Abram.

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

God gives us strength to live the Gospel.

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Third Sunday in Lent
March 7/8, 2026

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

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

1:00PM—Passion Play Practice, Parish Hall

4:30PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

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

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

6:45PM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 10), St. Margaret Church



Monday, March 2, 2026

10:00AM—St. Thomas Altar Society, St. Thomas Chapel

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

6:00PM—Young Ladies Lenten Bible Study, St. Margaret Room

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

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, March 4, 2026

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

10:30AM—Together in Holiness Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

3:00PM—Cemetery Committee Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

5:00PM—Junior Youth Group, Off Campus

6:30PM—High School Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room

6:30PM—OCIA, St. Jean Vianney Room

Thursday, March 5, 2026

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

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

Friday, March 6, 2026

9:30AM—Divine Readers, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

4:00PM—Lenten Meatless Meals, Parish Hall

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

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

1:00PM—Junior Youth Group ARISE, Off Campus

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

4:00PM—First Scrutiny, St. Margaret Church

FEED THE YOUTH!
ST. MARGARET JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS MEET EACH WEDNESDAY AND THE KIDS COME HUNGRY! WE LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY LEAVE FED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A MEAL, OR A FEW, HERE!