

THE

FEBRUARY 7/8, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*“You are the light
of the world.”*
~Matthew 5:14

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



SALT, LIGHT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

By Deacon Randall Waguespack

Every year on February 20th, the Church observes the **World Day of Social Justice**, which calls attention to the need for equality, inclusion, and respect for human rights. This focus aligns closely with the readings for the **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, when Jesus tells his disciples: “*You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world*” (Matthew 5:13–14). These images remind us that Christian faith is meant to shape society, especially where human dignity is threatened or ignored.

At the heart of **Catholic Social Teaching** is the belief that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this, each person possesses an inherent dignity that cannot be earned, lost, or denied. This dignity belongs equally to the unborn child, the poor, the unemployed, the migrant, the elderly, and all who experience exclusion or discrimination. A just society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

The World Day of Social Justice highlights the responsibility of governments, institutions, and individuals to address poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, and violations of human rights. These are not merely political concerns; they are moral issues that affect real human lives. The First Reading from Isaiah makes this clear: “*Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn*” (Isaiah 58:7–8). True love of God is inseparable from concern for those who are marginalized.

St. John Paul II emphasized that the defense of human life must be **consistent and inclusive**. Human life is sacred at every stage and in every condition. A society committed to justice protects the unborn while also confronting social injustices—such as poverty, racism, and lack of access to dignified work—that threaten life and dignity.

To be **salt and light** today means more than good intentions. It calls us to concrete action: accompanying the poor and marginalized, advocating for policies that protect life and human rights, and fostering parish communities where all are welcomed and valued. As Jesus reminds us, our good works are meant to shine—not for our glory, but so that others may “*give glory to your heavenly Father*” (Matthew 5:16).

Prayer:

God of justice and mercy, open our eyes to the dignity of every person and strengthen us to build a more just and inclusive world. Make us salt and light, so that your love may shine through us. Amen.

*St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland
Respect Life Ministry*

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR LENTEN MEATLESS MEALS

Tickets for our Lenten Meatless Meals will be on sale outside of all Masses beginning this weekend. 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.

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting. The office will also be closed all day on **Friday, February 13, 2026**, for a special staff outing. Please take care of any business before or after these times. Thank you for your consideration!

LENT BEGINS SOON

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on **February 18, 2026**. It is a day of fasting and abstinence and is the first day of Lent. It derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday and placing them on the heads of participants. Masses on Ash Wednesday will be as follows: **7:00AM** and **6:00PM** at St. Margaret and **12:00PM** at St. Thomas. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Adoration will end on Ash Wednesday with the Benediction at 5:00PM.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Join Fr. Paul and our One Book, One Church ministry for a six-week Lenten Book Study on "Anima Christi: Soul of Christ" by Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C. beginning **Thursday, February 19, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in St. Margaret Church. Books will be available the weekend of **February 14/15, 2026**.

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.

BE A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



NEW MASSES SCHEDULED

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

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!

USHERS NEEDED

A Hospitality Minister (Usher) 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.

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.

JUSTICE STANDS FIRM FOREVER

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

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, 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 31/February 1, 2026,
totaled:

\$15,122.00.

There will be no
Second or Special Collection
next weekend!

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

**TO
GIVE...**



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!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamps at St. Margaret and St. Thomas are burning
in honor of **Fr. Paul Gros & Fr. Kumar Kolakani**.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Victor & Bessie Baglio Family, 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, David LeJeune, Michael Jude LeJeune,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Gary McShan,
Adam & Gina Mocsary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus,
Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso,
Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman,
Vito Tallia, Sr., Yancy Watkins, Barbara Wilson and Russell Wood

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

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred J. Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, Fulton Charles Hebert,
John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Maria McCulloch, Mary Louise Prokop
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Beatrice Vander Pluymn

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Scholastica)

George & Eric Navarre

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Hilton Hoover

Friday, February 13, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

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

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1104

Isaiah 58:7-10

God expects Israel to be people of light.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul's strength and wisdom comes from the Lord.

Matthew 5:13-16

Others must be able to see our good deeds.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14/15, 2026

Sirach 15:15-20

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee and Donut Ministry!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

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

11:15AM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 6)**, St. Margaret Church

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 (Grades 9-11)**, Parish Hall

6:45PM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 9)**, St. Margaret Church



Monday, February 9, 2026

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

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

5:30PM—**St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

9:30AM—**St. Joseph Altar Planning Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room



Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Parish Office Closed Today from 8:00AM until 1:00PM!

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

9:00AM—**Monthly Staff Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

6:30PM—**KC Fourth Degree Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

5:30PM—**Parish Council Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

7:00PM—**Finance Council Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room



Friday, February 13, 2026

Parish Office Closed Today!

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

CDA Valentine Bake Sale After All Masses!

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