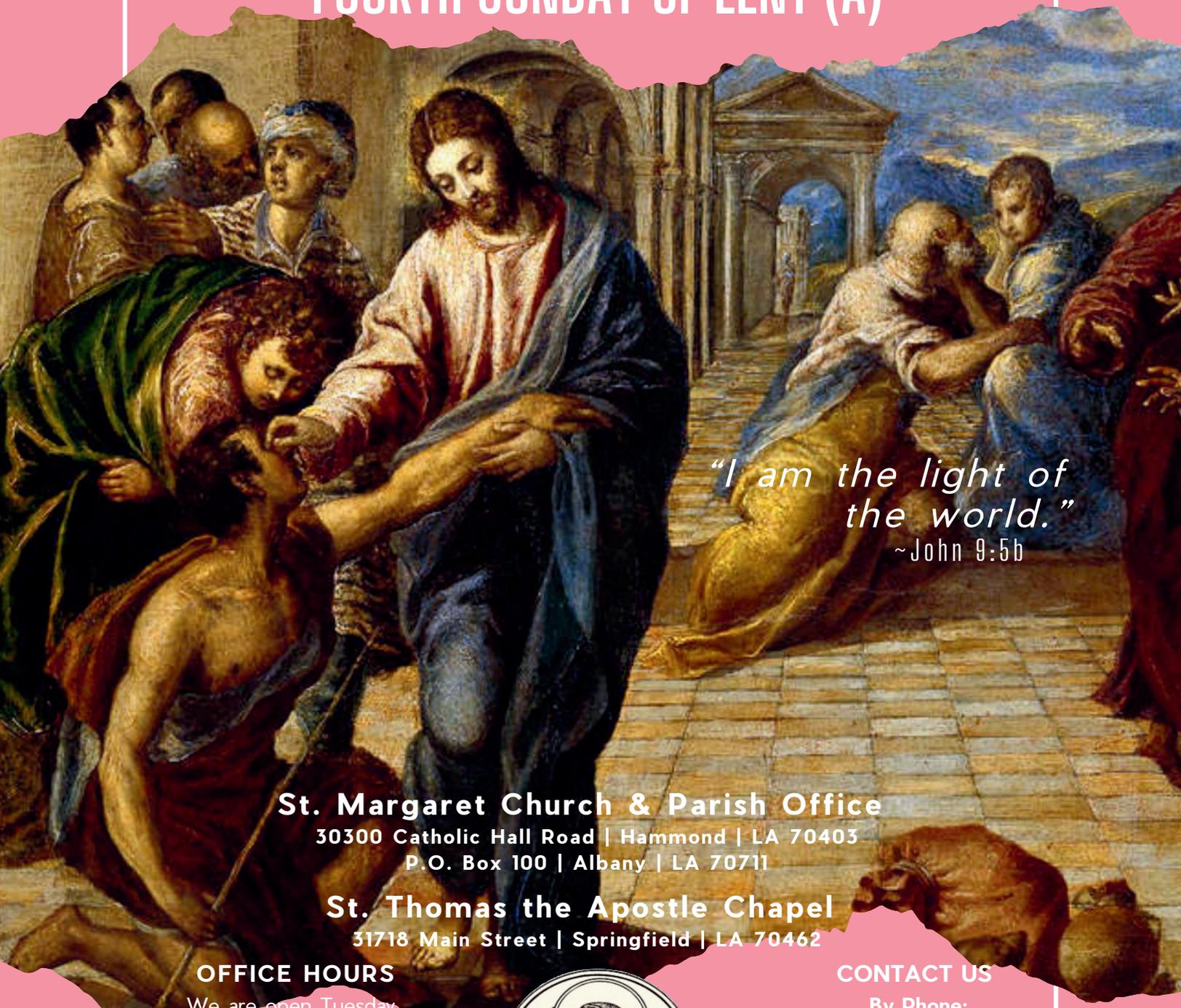


THE

MARCH 14/15, 2026

PEW BUDDY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



"I am the light of the world."
~John 9:5b

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 in the Lord Jesus Christ! I first want to share with you something extremely exciting that happened two Wednesdays ago. The President of Hungary made a special visit to St. Margaret Church around 4:15 Wednesday afternoon. This was one of his three stops here in the Hungarian Settlement (he also visited the museum and the Presbyterian Church).

He and his wife are both Catholic, so we invited them inside the church during Adoration. I spoke briefly about the history of our parish and pointed out the Hungarian inscription above the crucifix (“Glory to God in the Highest”) along with the Stations of the Cross, which are also written in Hungarian. I was pleased to learn that he had visited the tomb of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland, and was very aware that she was Hungarian born. After the 15-minute visit, he gifted St. Margaret Church a porcelain holy water font made in Hungary with a particular finish native to that region.

Below is a picture of the font. Because it is a decorative piece, I plan to keep it in my office for a while before moving it to the rectory living room. His Secret Service team gave me the impression it was best not to advertise the event beforehand due to security risks. It was a wonderful event that made me immensely proud of our little country church!

During these next two weekends of Lent (this weekend being Laetare Sunday!), some of you will witness our OCIA elect participate in the "Scrutinies." The Scrutinies are ancient rites going back to the early Church. They focus on minor exorcisms that prepare the hearts of our elect for the Easter Sacraments. This correlates with the anointing of a baby's chest with the Oil of Catechumens right before baptism. The word “scrutiny” comes from a Latin word meaning “to search or investigate;” in this case, it signifies a careful examination of the elect's faith, morals, and disposition of heart.

The Gospel for each of the three Scrutinies focuses on a different thematic role. Last weekend, the Gospel of the “Woman at the Well” focused on a “thirst for living water.” This weekend, the Gospel of the “Man Born Blind” focuses on opening the eyes of faith to the true light of Christ. Finally, next weekend's Gospel of the “Raising of Lazarus” focuses on Christ's victory over death and the elect's desire to rise to new life. Please congratulate our elect after Mass if you are present for these rites!

Finally, next Sunday morning I will be away, as I have put together another cycling team for the MS-150. This year, our team of six is named “Team Guadalupe,” and our jerseys feature a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the front and back. I will be sure to share pictures via social media and in the following weekend's bulletin. Please pray for our safety on the roads.

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

JOIN US FOR THE ST. JOSEPH ALTAR THIS WEEKEND!

St. Joseph, model of humility and one of the greatest saints, is often mentioned as being silent. Instead, he was a man of action and his actions reveal much of what we know about him. A devoted husband and foster father, never hesitated, but took immediate action when summoned by the angel of God we have read about. Each time we read that the angel spoke to Joseph, the following sentence begins with the action "St. Joseph took", "Joseph awoke," "Joseph rose," "He went." All are invited to participate, celebrate and give glory to God in honor of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, by attending the St. Joseph Altar in the St. Margaret Parish Hall this **Sunday, March 15, 2026**, following the **10:00AM** Mass. Before the procession to the Parish Hall, the novena prayers will be recited. Fr. Paul will bless the altar. Then all will be invited to the sharing of the meal. Afterwards, attendees can request sweets from the altar. Please make plans to join us to celebrate! If you have any questions, call 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 crawfish etouffee, rice, green beans, bread and dessert will be available on **Friday, March 20, 2026**. Proceeds will benefit our various service ministries.

FILL A PRESCRIPTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

You can make a difference by participating and grabbing a bottle from the stand that will be available at the entrance of the church the weekend of **March 21/22, 2026**. You can also remove the label from an empty prescription bottle from home and bring it to church with a gift inside. This bottle can be placed in the container in the back of the church or in the offertory collection. This program is being sponsored by our local chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please be generous!

MARCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In February we provided food to 196 families (558 Individuals) thanks to over 65 volunteers who bring joy and blessings to each person who comes to pick up much-needed food. Registration for new people to sign up for the monthly food distribution is closed until July. We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, March 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. The St. Margaret Food Distribution is the 3rd Thursday of each month!

MINISTERS NEEDED FOR MONDAY EVENING MASS

For our new Mass at **5:30PM** on **Mondays** after Mondays with Mary, we would like to invite you to participate in our celebrations as **Altar Server, Lector, or Extraordinary Minister of the Precious Blood**. There will be a sign up sheet in the sacristy for these ministries for the Monday evening Masses. Serving God as part of the celebration as a minister will make the Mass special for you!

CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

On March 25, 2020, the Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life). This prophetic document, written by Pope St. John Paul II, reaffirmed the Church's constant teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life.

The Gospel of Life highlights the special and particular role of women in bearing the gift of life. St. John Paul II offers heartfelt thanks to "heroic mothers," who, placing their trust in God, "devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves" (EV 86). The Holy Father also outlines many challenges that expectant mothers may face, recognizing that an "unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb" (EV 58). For this reason, it is particularly important that the Church come alongside mothers, offering encouragement, assistance, and support that is life-affirming for both them and their children.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION KREWE

We have a priest from the Diocese of Tucson that will be joining Catholic Mission Trips, Inc. with teens and young adults for natural disaster help. We ask that you consider 'Offering Up' your Lenten Sacrifice into almsgiving/donations to send the Priest and the building materials with our Mission Krewe. For more information please visit Catholicmissiontrips.net or call 703-957-9313. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate and please pray for our missionary disciples, Thank you!

ACT (choose one)

- Read the reflection, "He Made His Dwelling Among Us: The Annunciation and The Gospel of Life," (www.bit.ly/ev-annunciation) and spend time prayerfully reflecting on the gift of human life.
- Choose a day this week to fast for the featured intention.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Celebrate the gift of The Gospel of Life (www.bit.ly/evangelium-vitae) by reading section 87 of this prophetic encyclical on the dignity of the human person.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's still time for your parish to join Walking with Moms in Need. Visit WalkingWithMoms.com for more information.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:
www.WalkingWithMoms.com

OFFER IT UP THIS LENT
Average Savings for Common Lenten Sacrifices

CONSIDER GIVING YOUR FINANCIAL SAVINGS THIS LENT TO CATHOLIC MISSION TRIPS!

<http://Catholicmissiontrips.net>

CATHOLIC MISSION TRIPS INC.

QR CODE

CATHOLICMISSIONTRIPS.NET

- (\$20) DAILY COFFEES
- (\$30) (WEEKLY FAST-FOOD)
- (\$240) (2 BOTTLES OF WINE/WEEK)
- (\$160) (8 STEAKS)

THE LORD REVIVES MY SOUL

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

CALLING ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

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, 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, Mike Matherne, 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, Brittney Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Sharon Stolf, Annie Tallia, Carolyn Toole, Trysten Tucker, Barney Wall, Dominick David Wright, 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 **March 7/8, 2026**, totaled:

\$15,555.00.

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

\$4,864.00.

The **Second Collection** next weekend
will be for our local
St. Vincent de Paul Society!

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE... 



ST. MARGARET HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Easter Eggstravaganza

Help the High School Youth Group raise money for the Steubenville South & Mission Krewe pilgrimages this summer!

PURCHASE PRE-STUFFED EGGS TO HIDE FOR YOUR OWN EASTER EGG HUNTS!

ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 27!

PICK UP STUFFED EGGS BY HOLY THURSDAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, BY 3:00 PM.

25 EGGS	\$20.00
50 EGGS	\$45.00
75 EGGS	\$70.00
100 EGGS	\$95.00

USE THE QR CODE TO ORDER!
PLEASE CONTACT BAILEIGH HENDERSON
WITH ANY QUESTIONS
985-981-6524
BOHENDERSON@STMARGARETSTTHOMAS.COM



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**.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Karen Chemay, Barbara Connick, Jeff Day,
Larry J. Evans, Pete Fisher, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
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, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Conrad Rossie,
Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Vito Tallia, Sr. and Yancy Watkins

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

Jerry Adamcewicz, Ronnie Couvillier, Lloyd Dominguez, Donovan Jones,
John LaGrange, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Glenn Lohfink, Charlie Martin
and Gerard Lou Staub

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

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

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

Larry Borgstede

Monday, March 16, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Yancy Watkins

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Belinda Wilson

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 7:00AM (Lenten Weekday)

Donivan Jones

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Lynette Pfiffner

Friday, March 20, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

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

Third Sunday in Lent
Gather Hymnal Number 1025

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

"Not as man sees does God see."

Ephesians 5:8-14

Live as children of the light.

John 9:1-41

The healing of the man born blind.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21/22, 2026

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent!

Catholic Relief Services Special Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

NO PSR Classes Today!

11:00AM—**St. Joseph Altar**, Parish Hall

4:30PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

5:30PM—**Second Scrutiny**, St. Margaret Church



Monday, March 16, 2026

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

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

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

5:00PM—**Vocations Awareness Ministry Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

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

9:30AM—**Bible Study, Book of Hebrews**, St. Ignatius Room

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



Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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

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

5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. Margaret Room

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00AM—**Food Distribution**, St. Margaret Campus

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

5:00PM—**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, March 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, March 21, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent!

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

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

