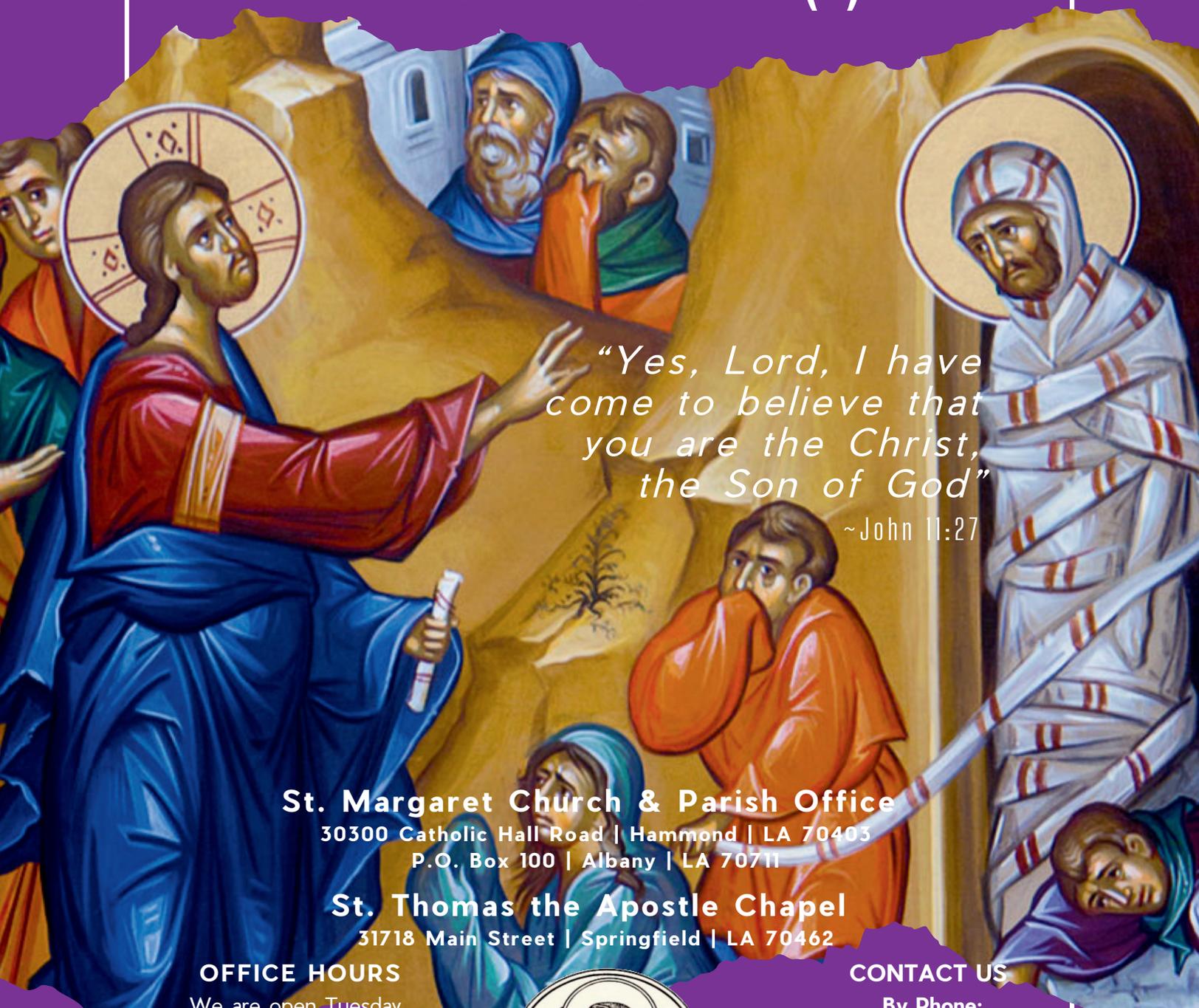


THE

MARCH 21/22, 2026

PEW BUDDY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



*“Yes, Lord, I have
come to believe that
you are the Christ,
the Son of God”*

~ John 11:27

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 as we celebrate this 5th Sunday of Lent! This weekend, the Church gives us another long narrative from the Gospel of St. John.

If you recall, two weekends ago we read John 4, the story of the Woman at the Well. That passage dealt with the themes of “Water and Thirst,” pointing to the “Living Water” of the Holy Spirit which the Lord gives us through the waters of Baptism. Last weekend was the story of the Man Born Blind. This passage focused on another major theme in John’s Gospel: sight and light. The man was able to see physically after Jesus made clay with His spittle and told him to wash in the waters of Siloam. However, the real “seeing” happened when he professed his belief in Jesus as the Messiah and bowed down to worship Him. It was the “Light of the World” that enabled him to truly see with the eyes of faith.

Finally, this weekend—just before Palm Sunday—we have the dramatic story of Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, being raised from the dead after four days in the tomb. The major themes here are “life and resurrection,” serving as a climax before Jesus rides into Jerusalem to begin Holy Week.

There are two things I would like to emphasize from this passage. First, this story contains the shortest verse in the Bible, John 11:35: “And Jesus wept.” I remember seeing a heart-wrenching picture taken after a flood at a camp in Texas that claimed the lives of several campers and counselors. Someone had painted a sign with this verse next to one of the cabins. Jesus weeps with us over the tragedy of sin’s consequences, which are often difficult to make sense of. His heart sorrows with us in our grief. His empathy should give us hope—hope that our Lord’s victory over death is the definitive answer to our hurts.

Secondly, I want to point to the final verse of this passage: “Untie him and let him go.” The Greek word for “untie” means to “loose or free,” pointing to a release from the bondage of sin and death. The phrase “let him go” is used elsewhere in the Gospels to refer to forgiveness—most notably in the Lord’s Prayer, when we ask God to “forgive” (or release) us from the debt of our sins.

When Jesus says, “Lazarus, come out!” His words are incredibly powerful. They restore life to Lazarus’ body, but they also foreshadow Jesus’ power to release us from sin. I see this power most clearly in the Sacrament of Penance. When the priest says, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” it is Jesus Himself releasing us. If we are in a state of mortal sin—meaning we are spiritually dead—He is “raising us” back to life.

The Church gives us these beautiful readings to ponder as we enter Holy Week. Please take note of our confession times during these next two weeks before Easter!

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

P.S. Please keep me in your prayers this weekend as our MS-150 cycling team, Team Guadalupe, rides on Saturday and Sunday to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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 this weekend. 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!

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR FINAL LENTEN MEATLESS MEAL

Tickets for our final Lenten Meatless Meal will be on sale outside of all Masses. The tickets are \$12 per meal and our next meal of fried fish, garlic potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be available on **Friday, March 27, 2026**. Proceeds will benefit our various service ministries.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO START SOON

If you are an adult who has been baptized and received First Eucharist but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation, you are welcomed to attend five preparatory sessions on **Tuesdays** beginning **April 7, 2026**, from **6:00PM** until **8:00PM** in order to assist you to prepare to receive the sacrament. The sacrament will be celebrated at the end of the five weeks. If you have any further questions, please contact Deacon Byrd at bcorbett@stmargaretstthomas.com or leave a message for him at the parish office.

YOUTH GROUP PASSION PLAY

Members of the St. Margaret Youth Group have been hard at work, preparing for two showings of their Passion Play: **Good Friday, April 3, 2026**, at **6:00PM** and **7:30PM**. All parishioners are invited to one of these two viewings in the parish hall. Come support our youth group and experience this powerful prayer!

CHRISM MASS INVITATION

On **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**, at **10:30AM** at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge, Bishop Duca will celebrate our annual Chrism Mass. The Mass of Chrism is properly concelebrated by the bishop with his clergy and is a sign of the unity and communion of priests with their bishop. The blessing of the oils takes place during this liturgy. All parishioners are invited to attend; the parish office will be closed this day so that our staff might attend the service as well!

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

MY SOUL HOPES IN THE LORD

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 28 - APRIL 5, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 4:00PM - St. Margaret Church

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel;

10:00AM & 5:30PM - St. Margaret Church

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love. The memorial of the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem takes place at all Masses along with the blessing of Palms. The Gospel of the Passion of the Lord is also read.

Chrism Mass

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 10:30AM - St. Joseph Cathedral,
412 North Street, Baton Rouge**

The Mass of Chrism is properly concelebrated by the bishop with his clergy and is a sign of the unity and communion of priests with their bishop. The blessing of the Oils takes place during this liturgy. All parishioners are invited to attend; the parish office will be closed so that our staff might attend the service as well.

SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7:00PM - St. Margaret Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Begins after Mass and Ends at Midnight in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints.

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus celebrates the Last Supper in which he gives us His body and blood. The Washing of the Feet takes place at tonight's liturgy.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 8:00PM - St. Margaret Church

Alleluia! The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone! If we have died with Christ, we shall also rise with him and pass from death to life.

New Catholics will be welcomed into the Church tonight!

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, April 3, 2026, 12:00 Noon - Stations of the Cross -

St. Margaret Church; 3:00PM - Good Friday Service - St. Thomas

Chapel; 6:00PM & 7:30PM - Passion Play presented by the Youth Group - St. Margaret Parish Hall

Entrusting his life to the Father, Jesus bore our infirmities, and, obedient unto death, won for us eternal salvation. The Veneration of the Cross takes place at this liturgy.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel;

10:00AM & 5:30PM - St. Margaret Church

On this day of days, we offer a joyful sacrifice of praise to the Father who raised his Son from the dead. Let us be intent upon the life Christ offers us. Children are invited to bring their Easter baskets to Mass for a blessing!

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR SUCCESS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the St. Margaret/St. Thomas Saint Joseph Altar a great success, especially our St. Joseph Altar ministry consisting of 30 plus volunteers. Your enthusiasm and hard work are a blessing to our church and community. We thank Father Paul and Father Kumar and their staff for their enthusiastic support and promotion of the Altar! Our generous parishioners and others never cease to amaze and overwhelm us with their generosity and eagerness to assist. We are also grateful for your generous monetary donations and donations for blessed St. Joseph votive candles. We are so "touched" by your love and thoughtfulness by the various ways you assisted! This altar was a wonderful display of faith in God and one of the greatest saints. Thank you again for your gracious and loving support! May all of you be abundantly blessed through the intercession of St. Joseph! ~John & Mary Gaeta

LORD, HEAR MY VOICE!

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

CALLING ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

Please join our Prayer Line Ministers as we pray for these family members and friends:

Gwen & Walter Barado, Louis Bartus, Clark Bergeron, Nancy Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Amber Stillely 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, Brittnay Stillely, Danette Stillely, 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 14/15, 2026**, totaled:

\$14,390.00.

The **Catholic Relief Services
Special Collection** totaled:

\$1,108.00.

The **Special Collection** next weekend
will be for the **Priest's Retirement Fund!**

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



QUO VADIS OFFICE of VOCATIONS
WEEKEND RETREAT
FOR HIGH SCHOOL
YOUNG MEN
March 27th - 29th
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Catholic Church
2250 Main Street Baton
Rouge, LA 70802
Scan QR Code or go to
<https://bit.ly/HSQuoVadis>
to register!
Recommended cost: \$40
For questions contact
beaubennett@gmail.com
Hosted by Diocese of Baton Rouge Office of Vocations and
Director of Vocations, Fr. Albert Blount
"And Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me.'" John 1:43

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Irene Horrell by Lucie & Joe Hanewinkel.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Victor & Bessie Baglio Family, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Karen Chemay,
Barbara Connick, Jeff Day, Vicki Erwin, Larry J. Evans, Pete Fisher,
June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Rose & Fred Gauthier,
Ricky Genre, Benny Gex, 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, Anne Sherman,
Judy Sherman and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin,
Pam Newman, E.D. Purvis and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Shelly Cyrus

Monday, March 23, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Margie & Joe Luizza

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Samera St. Claire

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 7:00AM

(Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

George & Eric Navarre

Friday, March 27, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Richard Yager

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Gather Hymnal Number 1028

Ezekiel 37:12-14

God's life-giving presence restores Israel.

Romans 8:8-11

If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive.

John 11:1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 28/29, 2026

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent!

St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

10:00AM—**Third Scrutiny**, St. Margaret Church

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

11:15AM—**Circle of Grace (Grade 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



Monday, March 23, 2026

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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

11:30AM—**United Methodist Lenten Reflections**, Off Campus

1:00PM—**Staff Faith Formation**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

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

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



Thursday, March 26, 2026

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

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

Friday, March 27, 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 28, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord!

Priest's Retirement Fund Special Collection!

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

6:00PM—**Young Adult Movie Night**, St. Margaret Room

Last Supper Presentation
Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 7:00PM
Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church
Tickfaw, LA

