

THE

MARCH 7/8, 2026

PEW BUDDY

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

*"...the water I shall give
will become in him a spring
of water welling up to
eternal life."*

~ John 4:14

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



YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO WALK LIFE'S JOURNEY ALONE

By Deacon Randall Waguespack

On this Third Sunday of Lent, we hear the Gospel of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. She comes carrying burdens, misunderstandings, and a history that has pushed her to the margins of her community. Yet Jesus does not avoid her. Instead, He looks into her heart, listens with compassion, and offers her the living water of healing and belonging.

This encounter is a reminder that Christ draws near to every person – especially those who have felt unseen or pushed aside. His invitation is always personal, always patient, and always rooted in love.

The *All Are Welcome* ministry of our Diocese echoes this Gospel truth beautifully in its message: **“You were never meant to walk life’s journey alone.”** This is not simply a slogan; it is a reflection of the very heart of Christ and the mission of His Church.

For many individuals with exceptional needs, and for their families, returning to Mass can feel overwhelming. Concerns about sensory sensitivities, mobility needs, communication differences, or fear of misunderstanding can become obstacles that keep families away from the Lord’s Table – often for months or even years.

But the Lord desires their presence. He longs to gather His people around His Altar, to nourish them with His Word and His Body, and to allow them to take their rightful place in the life of the parish. When members of our community are missing, **the Body of Christ is not complete.**

Welcoming individuals with exceptional needs is not a specialized outreach for a few – it is the holy responsibility of the entire parish. It is a way of living out the Gospel we hear today: approaching one another as Jesus approached the Samaritan woman – with attentiveness, gentleness, and an openness that communicates: “You are wanted here.”

This welcome begins with simple acts: a warm greeting, offering help to a parent who looks tired or unsure, making room in the pew, celebrating the presence (and occasional noises!) of children and adults with diverse abilities. But it continues with something deeper: an intentional invitation for families to come back to Mass, to bring their gifts, their faith, and their presence into all aspects of parish life.

Lent is a season of return – a time when the Lord invites every heart to come home. As a parish, let us extend that same invitation: **Come back to the Lord’s Table. Come back to worship. Come back to community. You and your family belong here.**

May our parish reflect the living water Jesus offers—refreshing, inclusive, and overflowing with grace—so that every person who walks through our doors knows in the depths of their heart: **“You were never meant to walk life’s journey alone.”**

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR NEWS

The St. Joseph Novena begins **Saturday, March 7, 2026**. There are receptacles near the entrances of both churches for depositing your prayer intentions. Your prayer intentions will be kept wholly confidential and will be burned in the Easter Fire just prior to the Easter Vigil Mass. Please refer to the altar flyer in last weekend's Pew Buddy for a complete schedule and more information. St. Joseph Altar donation envelopes can be found next to the prayer intention receptacles for visitors and for those who do not use offering envelopes. *We are in need of meatless vegetable casseroles*. If you would like to help, please contact John or Mary Gaeta at 225-567-2193 or 985-320-6520.

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.

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.

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.

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!

LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE

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!

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 BALEIGH HENDERSON WITH ANY QUESTIONS
985-981-6524
BOHENDERSON@STMARGARETSTTHOMAS.COM



CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to our newest couple married at St. Margaret during the month of February: **Pierce Rainey and Savannah Woodward**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact one of the clergy to schedule your wedding or to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

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, 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 Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Sharon 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 28/March 1, 2026**,
totaled:

\$12,881.50.

The **Special Collection** next weekend
will be for the **Catholic Relief
Services!**

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

**TO
GIVE...**



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly staff meeting. Please take care of any business before or after this time. Thank you for your consideration!

REGISTER FOR FORMED.ORG

Signing in to FORMED is quick and easy:

1. Go to formed.org/signup.
2. Search "St. Margaret Queen of Scotland" or "70403" in the search bar (it should pop up with our physical address).
3. Register with your name and email address.
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

You can easily access the website
by using this QR code!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Samara St. Claire by Kim Navarre.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Jeremiah & Cayden Amato, Oliver & Marinette Amato,
Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Philip Brabham, 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, Philip & Irene Leon,
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 8, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Ronnie Couvillier, Tim & Marissa Duffy,
Fulton Charles Hebert, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Glenn Lohfink, Charlie Martin
and Gerard Lou Staub

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

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

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

Shelly Cyrus

Monday, March 9, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Kristen Miller

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Gwen Delaune

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 7:00AM (Lenten Weekday)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Lenten Weekday)

Lynette Pfiffner

Friday, March 13, 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 1022

Exodus 17:3-7

God gives Moses life-giving water.

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

God's love for us
is freely given in Christ.

John 4:5-42

Jesus reveals himself
to the outcast woman.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14/15, 2026

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

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent!

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

Daylight Saving Time Begins!

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

11:15AM—Circle of Grace (Grades 1 & 5), 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 11), St. Margaret Church



Monday, March 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

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



Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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

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

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

6:30PM—High School Youth Group, Off Campus

6:30PM—OCIA, St. Jean Vianney Room

6:30PM—Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, St. Maria Goretti Room



Thursday, March 12, 2026

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

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

Friday, March 13, 2026

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

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

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent!

Catholic Relief Services Special Collection!

Lenten Meatless Meals Ticket Sales!

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

