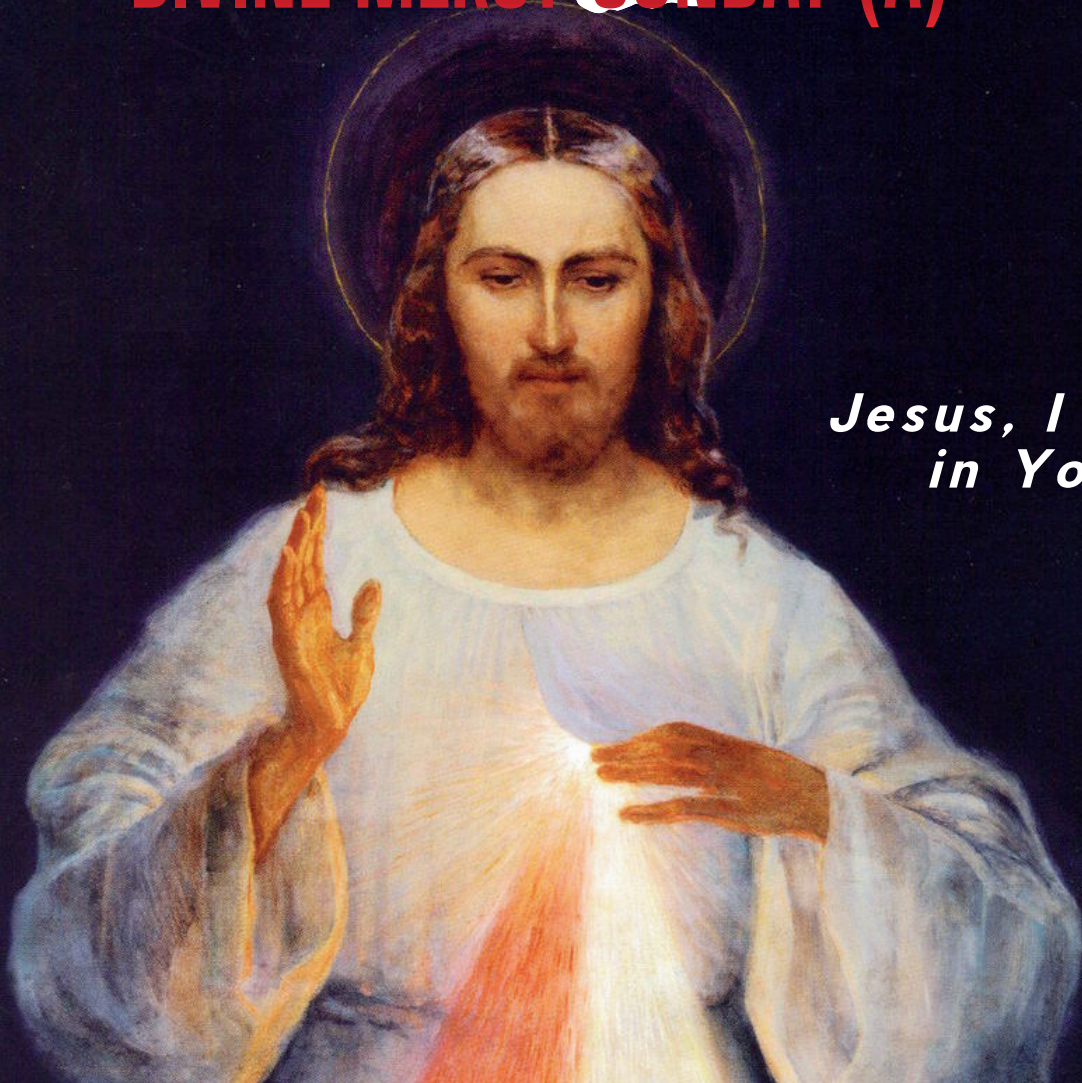


THE

APRIL 11/12, 2026

PEW BUDDY

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (A)



*Jesus, I Trust
in You!*

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



DIVINE MERCY AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

By Deacon Randell Waguespack

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, drawing our attention to the tender, healing love that flows from the heart of the risen Christ. Today's Gospel (*John 20:19–31*) finds the disciples locked away in fear, burdened by failure, confusion, and doubt. Into their fear, Jesus comes, not with condemnation, but with mercy. He stands among them and says, **“Peace be with you.”**

The mercy of Jesus does not ignore wounds; it meets them. He invites Thomas to touch His hands and side, transforming doubt into faith and fear into trust. Divine Mercy reveals that no situation is beyond God's healing love and no human life is beyond His concern. His mercy reaches every wounded place, including fragile moments when life itself hangs in the balance.

This celebration of Divine Mercy coincides with April's invitation to reflect on the dignity of human life, especially the lives of unborn children, their mothers, and children living in vulnerable circumstances. Mercy and respect for life are inseparable. The Gospel reminds us that respect for life is not rooted in judgment or fear, but in a faith-filled love that restores hope and opens the door to new possibilities.

Women facing unexpected pregnancies and families living through difficult circumstances experience isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty. Like the disciples behind locked doors, they may feel overwhelmed and alone. The message of Divine Mercy speaks directly into those moments: You are not alone. Peace is possible. Help is near.

God's mercy takes concrete form through ministries like ***Walking with Moms in Need***, which accompanies pregnant and parenting women with compassion, practical support, and authentic relationships. Mercy also shines through the ***Fostering Hope Ministry***, which supports foster families who open their hearts and homes to children in need of safety, stability, and love. Together, these ministries embody the Church's commitment to walk with families at every stage of life – listening without judgment, offering help with dignity, and ensuring that choosing life is supported by real compassion and real care.

When Jesus tells the disciples, **“As the Father has sent me, so I send you,”** He sends them –and us – to be instruments of mercy. We are sent to unlock doors, to accompany rather than abandon, and to make God's love tangible through prayer, presence, and practical support. Supporting mothers, welcoming children, and standing alongside foster families are powerful ways the Church lives this mission.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us pray that our hearts be shaped more fully by the heart of Christ. May our community be a place where fear gives way to peace, doubt to hope, and vulnerability to faithful companionship. And may we never forget: every human life is a gift, and mercy makes room for life to flourish.

“Jesus, I trust in You.”

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

EVALUATE THE DEACON CANDIDATES

Join Father Jamin David, Vicar General, and the Deacon Formation Homiletics Class to participate in a night of homilies, feedback and evaluation! Deacon candidates will be expected to give homilies in a lab setting at St. Margaret, and Fr. Jamin will critique them based upon a model that had previously been given them in their first preaching class. YOU CAN HELP! We need a “congregation” to also participate in giving constructive feedback. The “preaching lab” will be on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**, from **6:00PM** until **9:00PM** in St. Margaret Church. Your participation as a “teaching parish” is greatly appreciated, and our candidates will learn much from your wisdom, feedback, and presence! Please bring your friends!

THEOLOGY IN A BOTTLE

Our next “Theology in a Bottle,” our adult education ministry, will be **Sunday, April 19, 2026**, at **6:45PM** (following the 5:30PM Mass). Dr. Christopher Ragusa, Assistant Professor of Theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, will present “The Last Gulp: The Dignity of the Human Person & the End of Life.” Join us to learn more about your faith!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Come join us for the *2026 Crawfish Boil* in honor of the seminarians. This is a great time to visit with the seminarians and fellow parishioners. The crawfish boil will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2026**, at **12:30PM**. With your ticket, you will receive 3 pounds of crawfish, corn and potatoes. Tickets are \$25 each and will be sold after each Mass and in the parish office. Join us in this wonderful cause in supporting our seminarians as they journey to priesthood!

WELCOME NEW CATHOLICS!

Congratulations to our new, fully initiated members to receive the Easter Sacraments last weekend: **Daniel Crider, Jackson Hirsch, Jameson Hirsch, Trace Sceroler, Maria Jimenez Taveras, Corey Zeigler, Emily Dantone, Dawn Webster Dolski, Malcolm Fitzhugh, Garrett Hoyt, Summer Matherne Martinez, Breck Ragan, Chloe Crain Sheridan, Brooke Martin Thames, Tiffany Comeaux** and **Esjay Canchola** were also Confirmed in the Lord. Continue to pray for them in their faith journey!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, for the staff to attend a diocese event. Please take care of any business around this closure. Thanks for your cooperation!



TENUTA TORCIANO WINERY
From the Tuscan Wine Region in San Gimignano

Wine Tasting & Dinner

Enjoy an evening of cheese & charcuterie with complementing wines and delicious extra-virgin olive oil & balsamic from Italy with a family member from the vineyard, as well as an Italian-catered dinner from Vincent's of Metairie!

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026
6:00 PM, DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
ST. MARGARET PARISH HALL
\$100 Per Ticket

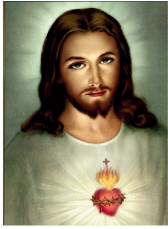
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS OR TABLES OF 8
MAY BE PURCHASED.

Please Contact Janeen or Tugga
Broussard for More
Information or to Purchase a
Ticket!
Tugga (504) 628-5528
Janeen (504) 628-5526

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

APRIL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In March, approximately 190 families (536 Individuals) received perishables and boxes of food. Annual registration will be on **Monday, June 29, 2026**, from **8:30-11:30AM** at St. Margaret in the Hall of Saints. We look forward to seeing you on **April 16, 2026** for our monthly Food Distribution from **9:00-11:00AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00-11:30AM**. If you already volunteer, 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!



Two Hearts

Women's Prayer Breakfast

All women are invited to come together
for Breakfast, Fellowship & Prayer



Saturday, May 2, 2026

9:00am – 12:00pm

KC Hall, Independence, LA

Guest Speaker:

Joan Rodrigue

Joan Rodrigue is a lifelong member of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in PierrePart, Louisiana. She has been married to her husband, Tim, for 40 years and is the proud mother of Jennifer Rodrigue. Joan's desire to serve the Lord began at a young age, though her early faith journey was shaped largely by fear. Over time, various life circumstances contributed to a controlling spirit that influenced much of her adult life. A daily communicant for nearly four decades, Joan describes herself during those years as "dead in the pew," unaware of the deep woundedness that was hindering a more intimate relationship with Christ. Her spiritual life began to transform as she acknowledged these wounds and intentionally sought healing. Through the power of the sacraments, spiritual direction, and active ministry, her faith came alive in a new and profound way. Today, Joan has a deep passion for evangelization and sharing the healing love of Jesus with others. Joan currently serves as a lector/commentator, Eucharistic Minister, and member of the Pastoral Council at St. Joseph the Worker. She is a 12-year member of Pax Christi Healing Ministry under the direction of Father Robert Cruz, has received spiritual direction for 12 years, and is a certified spiritual director. She is a 2022 graduate of the Cenacle School of Spiritual Direction in Clearwater, Florida, and most recently became a full-time member of the Marian Servants of Divine Providence, whose motherhouse is also located in Clearwater. Joan has a deep devotion to Our Blessed Mother and credits Our Lady with continually leading her closer to Jesus.

Limited seating available

**Please call or text Carol at 985-320-0051 or email reservation to
womensprayerbreakfast24@gmail.com**

Please make reservations before April 25, 2026

Please call if cancelling your reservations

HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His love is everlasting.

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 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, Joseph Mocsary, Erica Montz, Fay Murray, Meghan Page, Terry Parrino, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Kim Prokop, 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, Lucy Whiddon, 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 **April 4/5, 2026**, and **Holy Thursday Collection** totaled:

\$19,819.00.

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

\$4,299.00.

The **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** totaled:

\$1,795.00

There will be no **Second or Special Collection** next weekend!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE... 

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.**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Adam Amato, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Cherie Berteau, Susan Hammett Brantley, Elroy Cain, Karen Chemay, Barbara Connick, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, Pete Fisher, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Pam, Vincent, Angelo & Joseph Gaeta, Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Andrew Heltz, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sidney Ourso, Ralph & Phyllis Penning, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Diosada Ramona Ramos, Conrad Rossie, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, Vito Tallia, Sr. and Yancy Watkins

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange, Clarence & Faye Landeche & Family, David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, Pam Newman, John, Grace, Joe & Sunny Notariano, E.D. Purvis, Gerard Lou Staub and Charles & Marie Stumpf & Family

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Roy & Ada Leblanc

Monday, April 13, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Shirley Darouse

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Melissa Labranche

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, April 17, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Donivan Jones

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
& Wedding Coordinator*)

PASTORAL STAFF

Baleigh Olah Henderson
(*Religious Education, Youth Minister,
& Communications Coordinator*)
Debbie Corbett (*Safe Environment &
Baptismal Coordinator*)

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Divine Mercy Sunday
Gather Hymnal Number 1066

Acts 2:42-47

A summary of the first
Christians' communal life.

1 Peter 1:3-9

The suffering early Christians
are called to hope.

John 20:19-31

The disciples are sent forth
to be signs of Jesus' presence.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18/19, 2026

Acts 2:14, 22-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 12, 2026

St. Margaret Ministries Second Collection!

10:00AM—**First Communion**, St. Margaret Church

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

2:30PM—**Marian Servant Divine Mercy Service**, 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, April 13, 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, April 14, 2026

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

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

6:00PM—**Deacon Candidates Homiletics Class**, St. Margaret Church

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Parish Office Closed!

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

5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room

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

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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

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

5:00PM—**High School Youth Group**, Off Campus

5:30PM—**CDA Rosary**, St. Ignatius Room

6:00PM—**Catholic Daughters Meeting**, St. Ignatius Room

Friday, April 17, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, April 18, 2026

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

A colorful graphic with a red and white background. On the left, there is a cartoon illustration of a young girl with a headscarf and a man in a blue suit. On the right, there is a QR code and text. The text reads: "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!"

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!