

THE

APRIL 25/26, 2026

PEW BUDDY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

*"I came so that they
might have life and
have it abundantly."*

~John 10:10

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 PEDALING PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ as we continue to celebrate this Easter Season. I want to begin my bulletin article with a little "Church Etiquette 101." Courtesy is a virtue that falls under the theological virtue of Charity. It means being attentive to others' needs and feelings, being gentle in speech, and respecting others' time, space, and dignity. Courtesy is something we should all foster in many different ways, especially at Mass—letting others into the pew, refraining from chewing gum, excusing yourself if you feel unwell, yielding to one another in the parking lot, and opening doors for one another. These are simple and courteous ways we can all be mindful of living out our Christian faith within the very community with whom we worship.

When it comes to children... you know I **love** having our children at Mass! However, as parents, we too want to be courteous and mindful of those around us. Children are going to cry, squirm, coo, cackle, smile at the people in the next pew, and climb on their father's arms (as I once did). This is what children do, and as a community, we should expect and welcome this. As the saying goes, "A church that isn't crying is dying"!

At the same time, I want to encourage parents to feel that it is okay to excuse yourself if a child is "screaming bloody murder" or has crossed the threshold into disrupting the entire congregation. A father once joked to me, "Father, we call that the walk of shame." He was being facetious, of course, but it is true that children have a way of humbling us! Please know that as parents, you are still participating in the Mass even if you feel you "didn't get anything out of it." Grace is still present to you and your family, and you are teaching your children the vital importance of our Sunday obligation.

I also want to discourage toys that make noise in the pews—anything that clicks, beeps, honks, toots, bellows or pings. These kinds of toys can be quite distracting to those sitting nearby. This, of course, does not include stuffed animals, books, "Squishies," or toy planes or cars rolled quietly on the padded pews.

In the end, children will be children, and we embrace that as a parish family. I applaud and thank all our parents who take the promises they made to God at their child's baptism seriously by bringing their little ones to Holy Mass. Parents thank you for making our parish a living, breathing family of faith. May our patience and courtesy towards one another be a reflection of the Father's infinite patience and love toward us.

Have a wonderful week!

Fr Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

SEMINARIAN CRAWFISH BOIL THIS WEEKEND

Come join us for the 2026 Crawfish Boil in honor of our 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!

MAY CROWNING

On **Sunday, May 3, 2026**, after the **10:00AM** Mass, our PSR students will participate in our annual May Crowning in the piazza in front of the Church. Young people (and old ones too!) are invited to bring live flowers to place at the base of the statue of the Blessed Mother. During the month of May, we pray for all of our Mothers as we ask the Blessed Mother's intercession that we might grow to be more like her in faith, love and charity! Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

FR. KUMAR & FR. LAZ HOST INDIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER

On **Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00PM** Fr. Kumar and Fr. Laz will be hosting an "Indian Meal" fundraiser in the parish hall to raise funds to send young women in India to school. Their ability to get an education will help prevent the human trafficking of these young women. It only costs \$350 to send one young lady to school for a year in India. We will enjoy a traditional Indian-style meal and good company with each other. Please bring a dessert to share for after the meal. Donations are appreciated!

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection** for
the weekend of **April 18/19, 2026**,
totaled:

\$12,780.00.

The **Second Collection** next weekend will
be for the **Building & Maintenance Fund!**

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



Is Mother's Day Difficult for You?

Loss and Longing Mass

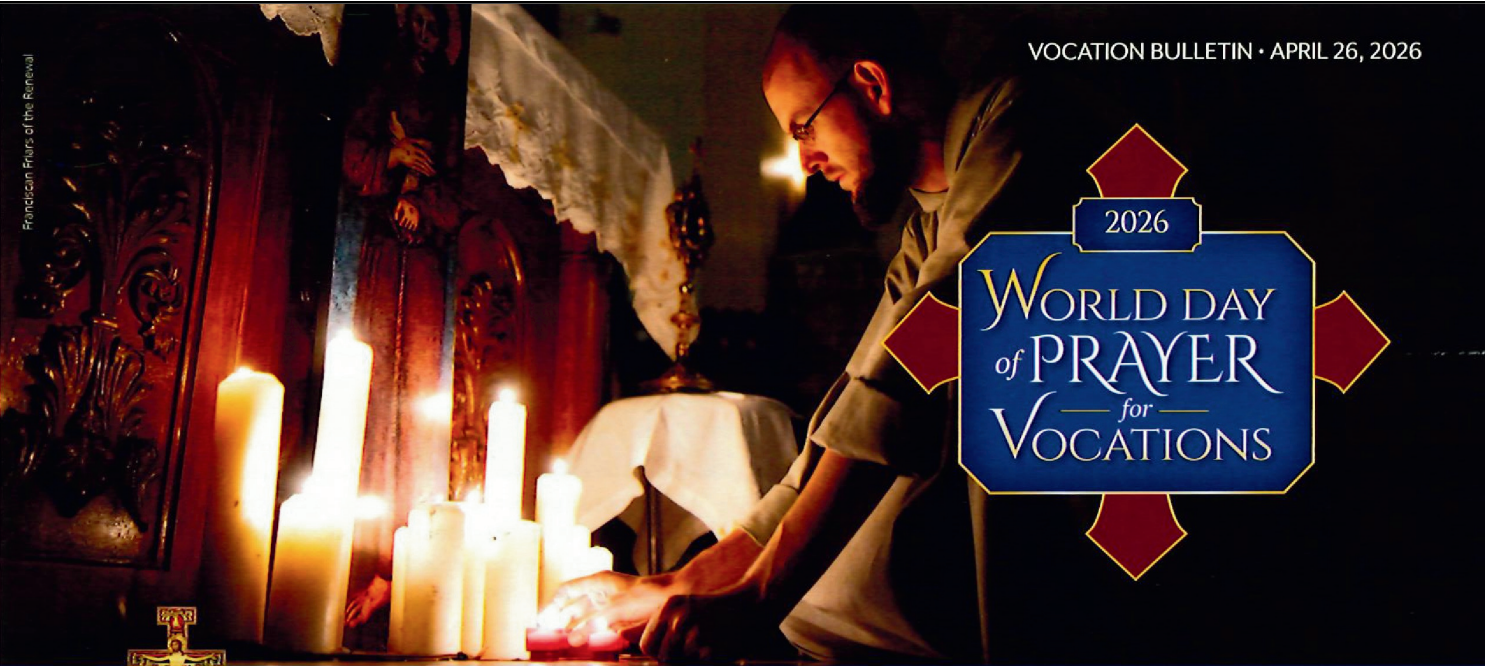
A Mass for those who have lost a child, lost their mother, who struggle with infertility, who have a difficult relationship with their mother or children or who otherwise struggle with Mother's Day.

Saturday, May 9th @5:30pm

St. Sharbel Catholic Church
18768 Jefferson Hwy

Please share this flyer with those
who might be interested.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal



2026

WORLD DAY
of PRAYER
for
VOCATIONS



JUBILEE YEAR • 800 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS • 1226-2026

Masthead photo: A young friar prepares for *transitus*, the Franciscan tradition of celebrating the entrance of their patron saint into heaven. In 2026, the feast will take on special significance, as Pope Leo has declared a special jubilee year recognizing eight centuries of Francis of Assisi's profound influence on the Church.

CALLED BY NAME

'THEY SAW SOMETHING IN ME THAT I COULDN'T SEE IN MYSELF'

“When I first became Vocation Director, I discovered something remarkable,” said Fr. Jordan Dosch, a priest of the Diocese of Bismarck. “I was looking through our archives and discovered an old ‘Called by Name’ list from about fifteen years earlier.” The list was from a campaign during which the bishop asked people to suggest young men who might make good priests. “As I looked at this long list of hundreds of young men, I saw my own name.”

“What’s amazing to me is that when my name was submitted, I was in junior high, and wasn’t even thinking about the priesthood—I barely even understood what it was. But someone saw something in me that I couldn’t yet see in myself.”

As Fr. Dosch examined the list, he saw more names he recognized. “I checked closely, and almost all of our young priests were on that list,” he said. “And some names were on the list ten times, which is a pretty good clue!”

Fr. Dosch says lay people have an important role to play in calling forth priestly vocations. “Every young Catholic guy has to struggle at some point with whether God may be calling him,” he said. “So when you see a devout young man and ask, ‘Have you ever considered the priesthood?’ it might confirm something that is already stirring in his heart.”



Fr. Jordan Dosch is currently studying canon law in Rome. He is pictured here with two deacons at their ordination in St. Peter's Basilica.



Daughters of Mary of Nazareth

The Romance of Religious Life

Many women say, “I could never be a nun. I want a guy to sweep me off my feet. I want walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, and warm embraces.” And yet there are thousands of religious sisters who are head-over-heels in love with Jesus Christ, who relish being His bride, who will do anything to please Him, and who are too romantic to choose any other kind of life!





Zupa Vrhovska

AN INDISPENSABLE VOCATION WHY WE NEED BROTHERS



Dominican Friars of St. Joseph

With today's shortage of priests, one might assume that any man entering a religious community would naturally go on to be ordained. Historically, however, this has never been the case. Religious life—marked by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience—has always been recognized as a vocation in its own right, distinct from Holy Orders.

Religious brothers play a unique and essential role in the Church. Free from the demands of sacramental ministry, they are often able to devote themselves fully to works requiring long-term presence and deep personal engagement. For example, the Brotherhood of Hope, a community of all brothers, focuses on campus ministry in secular universities.

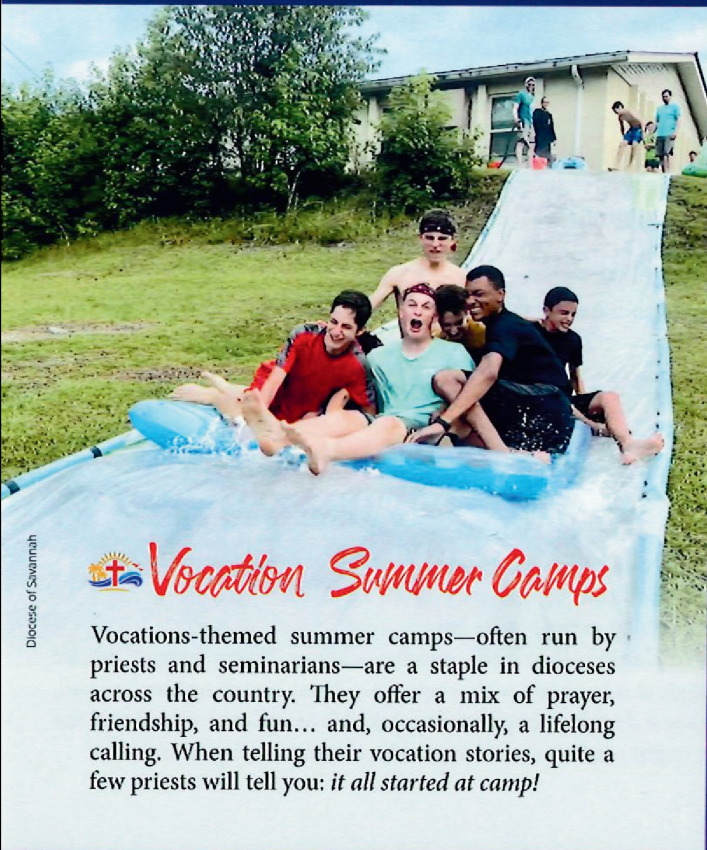
In contemplative communities such as the Cistercians, monk-brothers live in seclusion and austerity, centered on prayer and labor. Through this hidden fidelity, they bear powerful witness that God alone deserves our complete devotion because, in the end, our common vocation is union with Him in heaven.

Religious brotherhood is a vocation that deserves renewed attention by the faithful and serious consideration from young men discerning God's call.

A TRADITION FOR MOTHERS



At a priest's ordination, the bishop anoints his hands with sacred chrism and wipes them with a cloth that in older rites was called a *maniturgium*. Following an ancient and beautiful tradition, a priest may give this fragrant, oil-soaked cloth to his mother after his first Mass. She carefully preserves the cloth, then at her burial, her hands are tied together as in prayer by the *maniturgium* as a sign that she has offered her son to God and the Church.



Diocese of Savannah

Vocation Summer Camps

Vocations-themed summer camps—often run by priests and seminarians—are a staple in dioceses across the country. They offer a mix of prayer, friendship, and fun... and, occasionally, a lifelong calling. When telling their vocation stories, quite a few priests will tell you: *it all started at camp!*

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

By Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priest; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. *Amen*



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of
Shelly Cyrus by Carol McGough.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is given in memory of
Pauline Frisbie by Mary & Stephanie.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Susan Hammett Brantley, Elroy Cain, Karen Chemay, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, Pete Fisher, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Lathan Hart, Sterling & Jeanette Higginbotham, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, George Kerner, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Frank Leon, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Brandon Mayeaux, Gina Moscary, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Sidney Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Joseph, Mary & Raymond Resetar, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

Monday, April 27, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Donivan Jones

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter Weekday)

Mary LeBlanc

Friday, May 1, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Easter 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 Sales*)
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

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Gather Hymnal Number 1070

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter preaches to the Jews.

1 Peter 2:20b-25

"By his wounds you have been healed."

John 10:1-10

A call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus,
the gate and the shepherd.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2/3, 2026

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 26, 2026

World Day of Prayer for Vocations!

Catholic Home Missions Special Collection!

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

12:30PM—Seminarian Crawfish Boil, Parish Hall

6:45PM—Confirmation Practice (Grades 9-11), St. Margaret Church

Monday, April 27, 2026

8:15AM—Catholic Schoolhouse, Hall of Saints

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

6:00PM—Confirmation (Grade 9), St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—Adult Confirmation Class, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Adoration Ends at 5:00PM Tonight!

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

6:00PM—Confirmation (Grades 10 & 11), St. Margaret Church

Thursday, April 30, 2026

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

Friday, May 1, 2026

9:30AM—Divine Readers, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church



Regina Caeli
(O Queen of Heaven)
- sung at the end of Mass
before the closing collect.

Re - gí - na cae - li, lae - tá - re, al - le - lú - ia.
O Queen of heav - en, be joy - ful, al - le - lu - ia.

Qui - a quem me - ru - í - sti por - tá - re, al - le - lú - ia.
For he whom you have hum - bly borne for us, al - le - lu - ia.

Re - sur - ré - xit si - cut di - xit, al - le - lú - ia.
Has a - ris - en, as he prom - ised, al - le - lu - ia,

O - ra pro no - bis De - um, al - le - lú - ia.
Of - fer now our prayer to God, al - le - lu - ia.